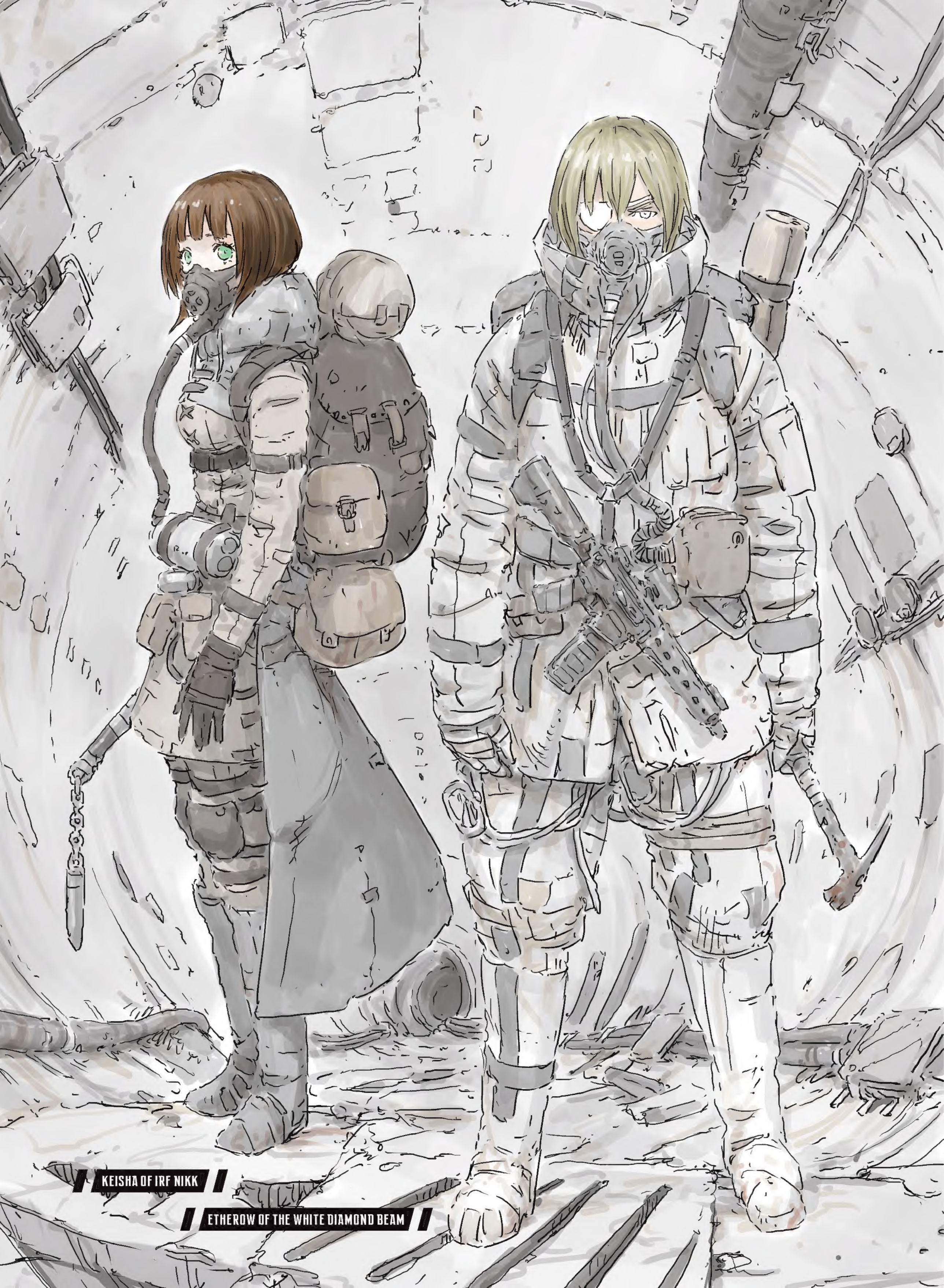
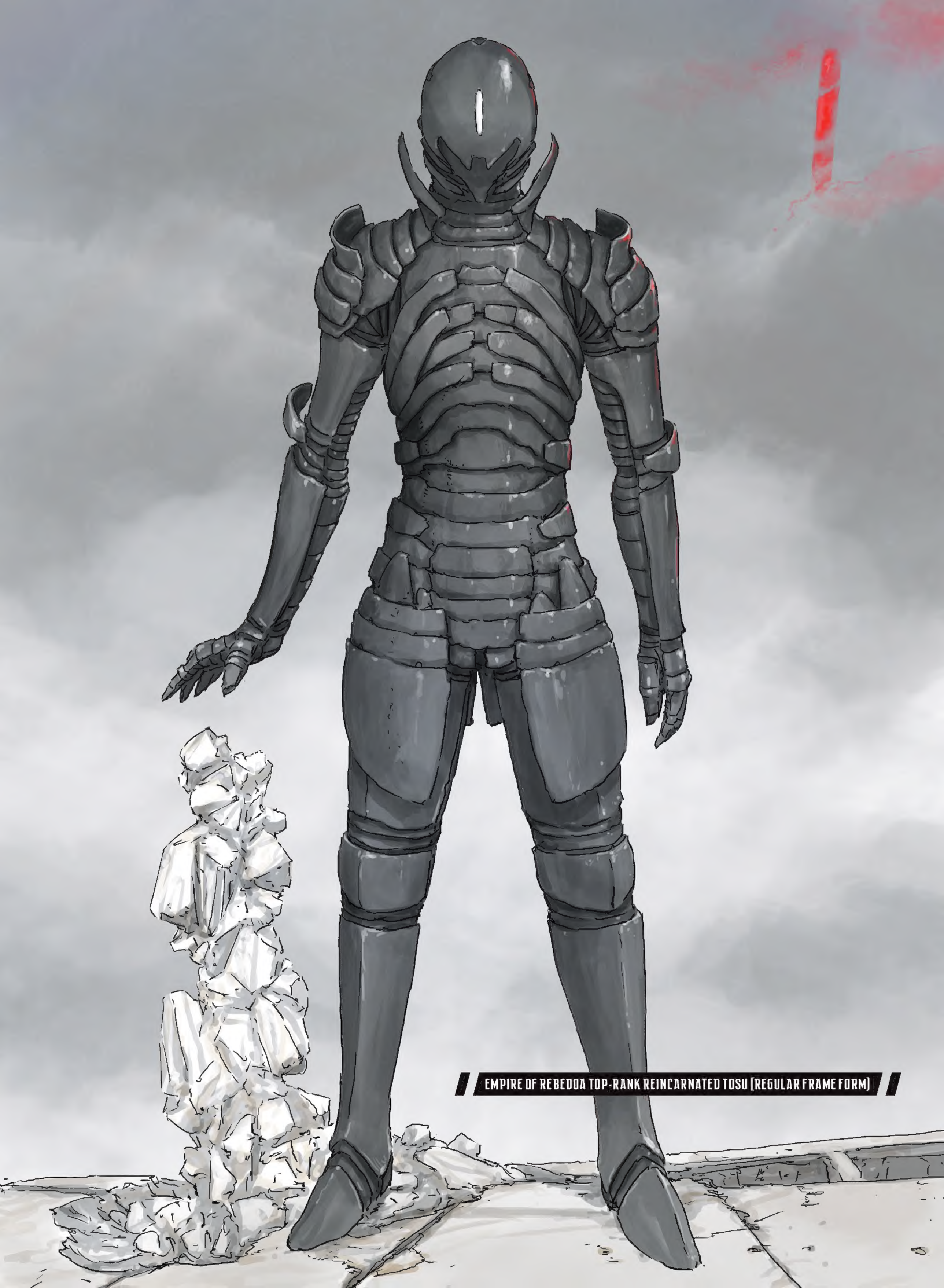
APOSIMZ

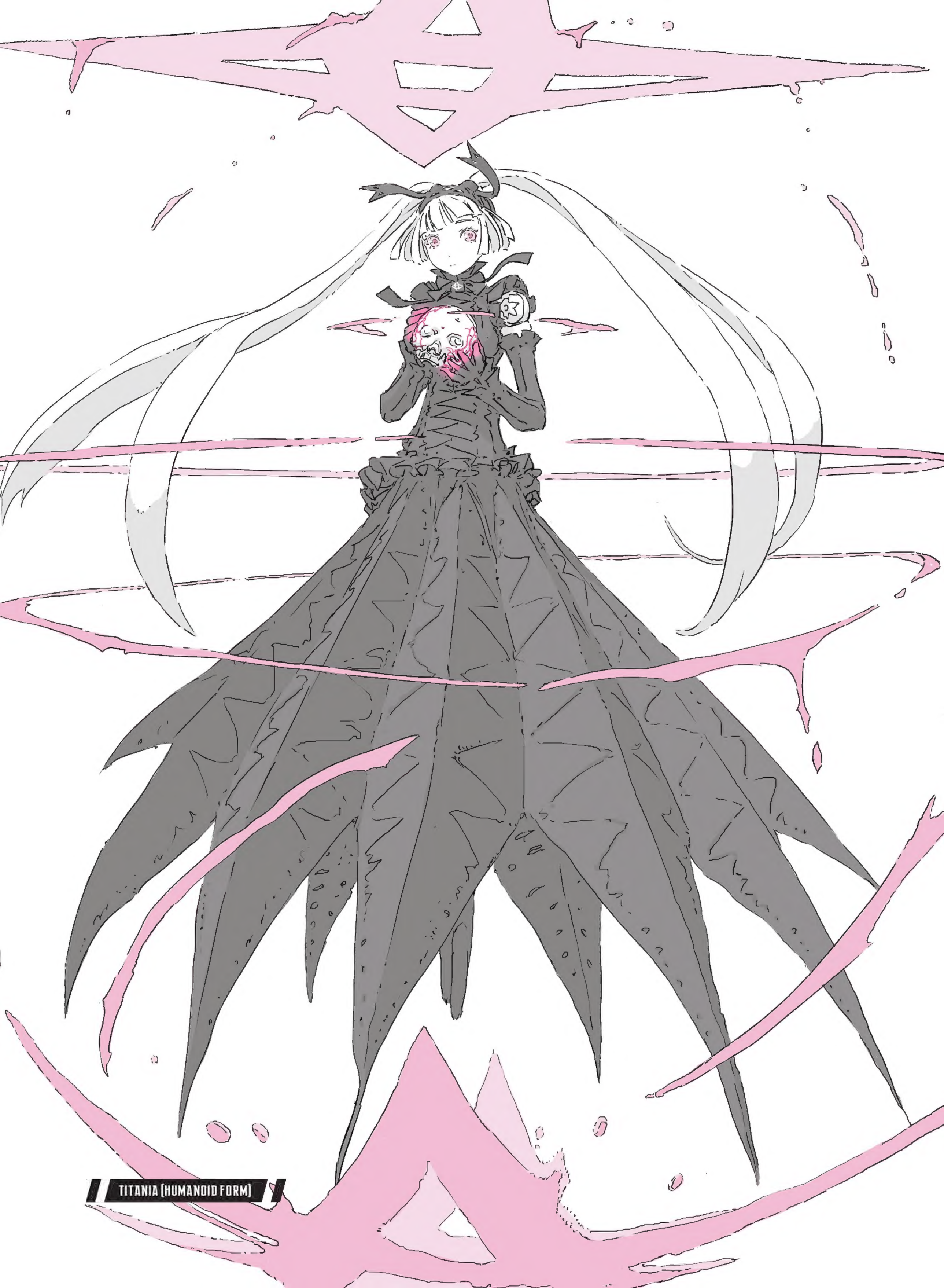
TSUTOMU NIHEI

03


KEISHA OF IRF NIKK
ETHEROW OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM



EMPIRE OF REBEDOA TOP-RANK REINCARNATED TOSU (REGULAR FRAME FORM)



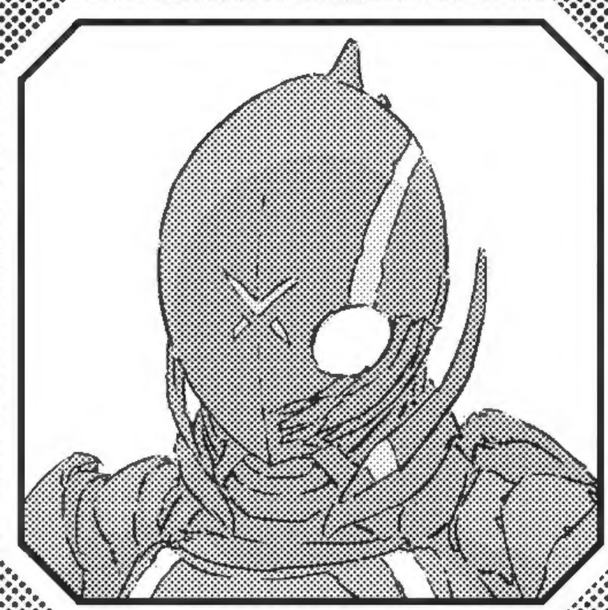
TITANIA (HUMANOID FORM)

NICHIKO SUOU (EMPEROR OF REBEDDA)

APOSIMZ

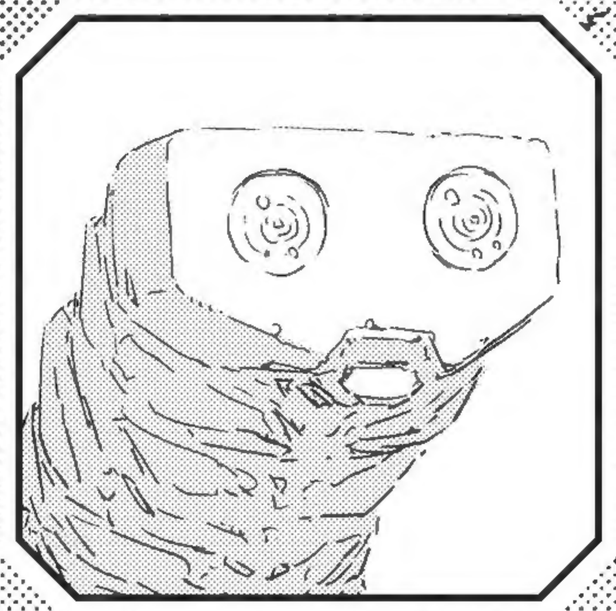
03

TSUTOMU
NIHEI



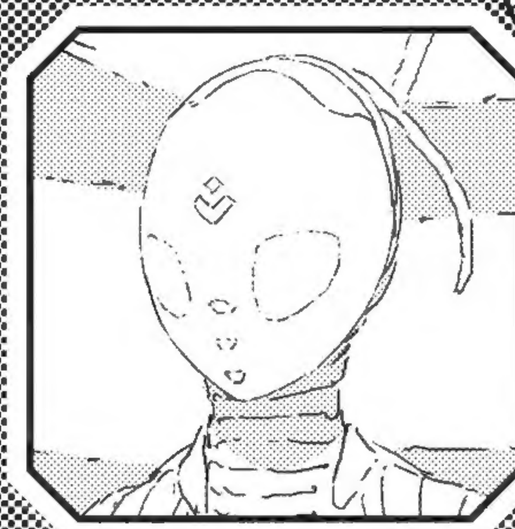
ETHEROW

A master marksman who becomes a Regular Frame in order to avenge his fallen homeland.



TITANIA

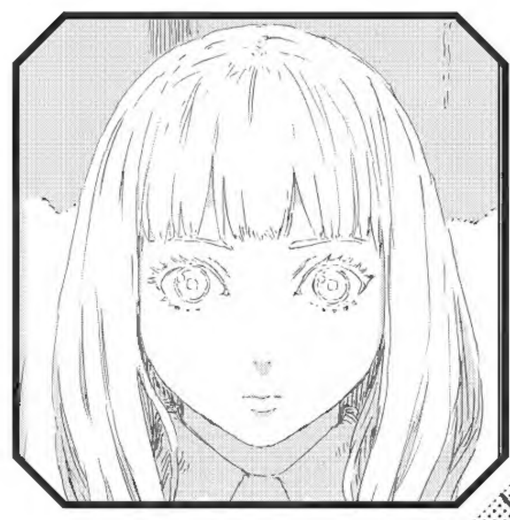
An Automaton who arrived from the Core in order to put a stop to the Rebedoan Empire's ambitions. Has two forms.



KEISHA

A girl whose hometown, Irf Nikk, was destroyed by the Empire. Can manipulate electricity and uses an expandable staff.

PLOT AND CHARACTER INTRO



BIKO

A former pupil of Etherow who became a Regular Frame and was brainwashed by Yiyu. Uses a powerful blade-like weapon.

FYUMA and AIMU

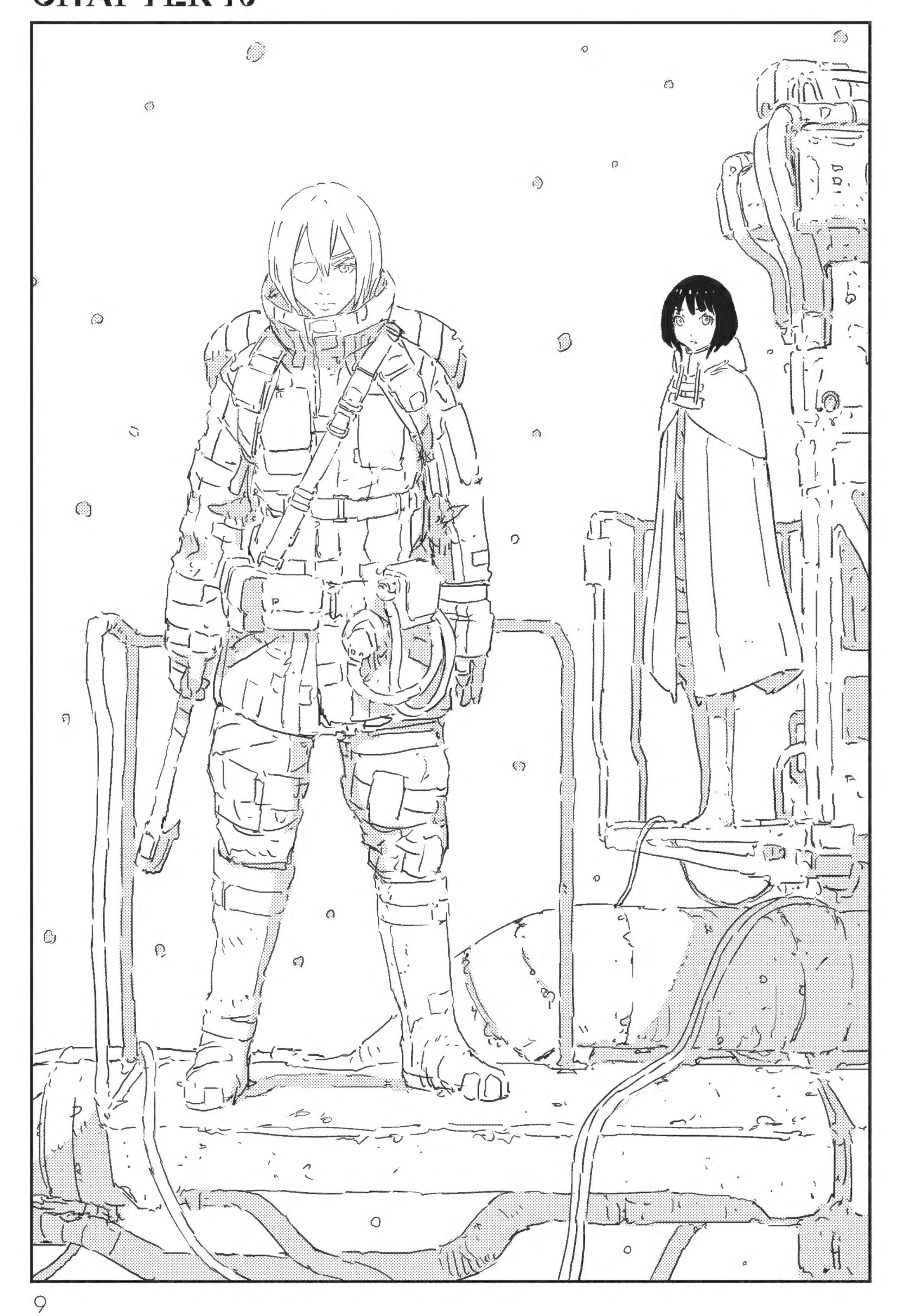
Rebedoan Regular Frames (Reincarnateds) who came to aid Yiyu in his mission.

Previously

Etherow has accepted Titania as a fellow comrade, and confronts his sworn enemy, Yiyu, who destroyed the White Diamond Beam. After a difficult battle, Etherow manages to shoot Yiyu, but just as he thought he had achieved vengeance, two top-level Reincarnateds of the Empire, Fyuma and Aimu, appear before Etherow...

APOSIMZ

CHAPTER 10



YIYU, DIDN'T YOU...?

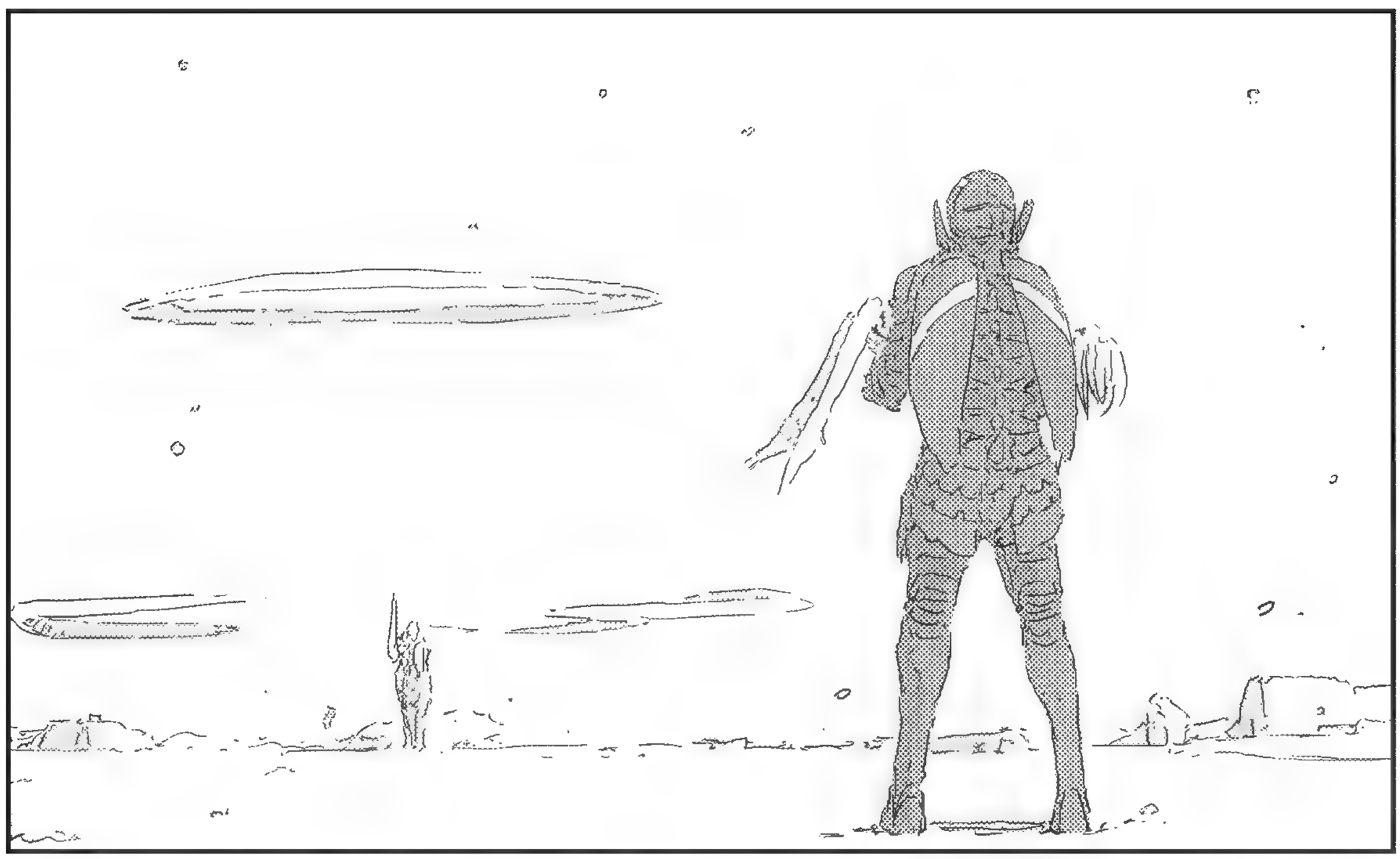
YOU BEAT ...

ETHEROW ...

YES.

HSSSSH

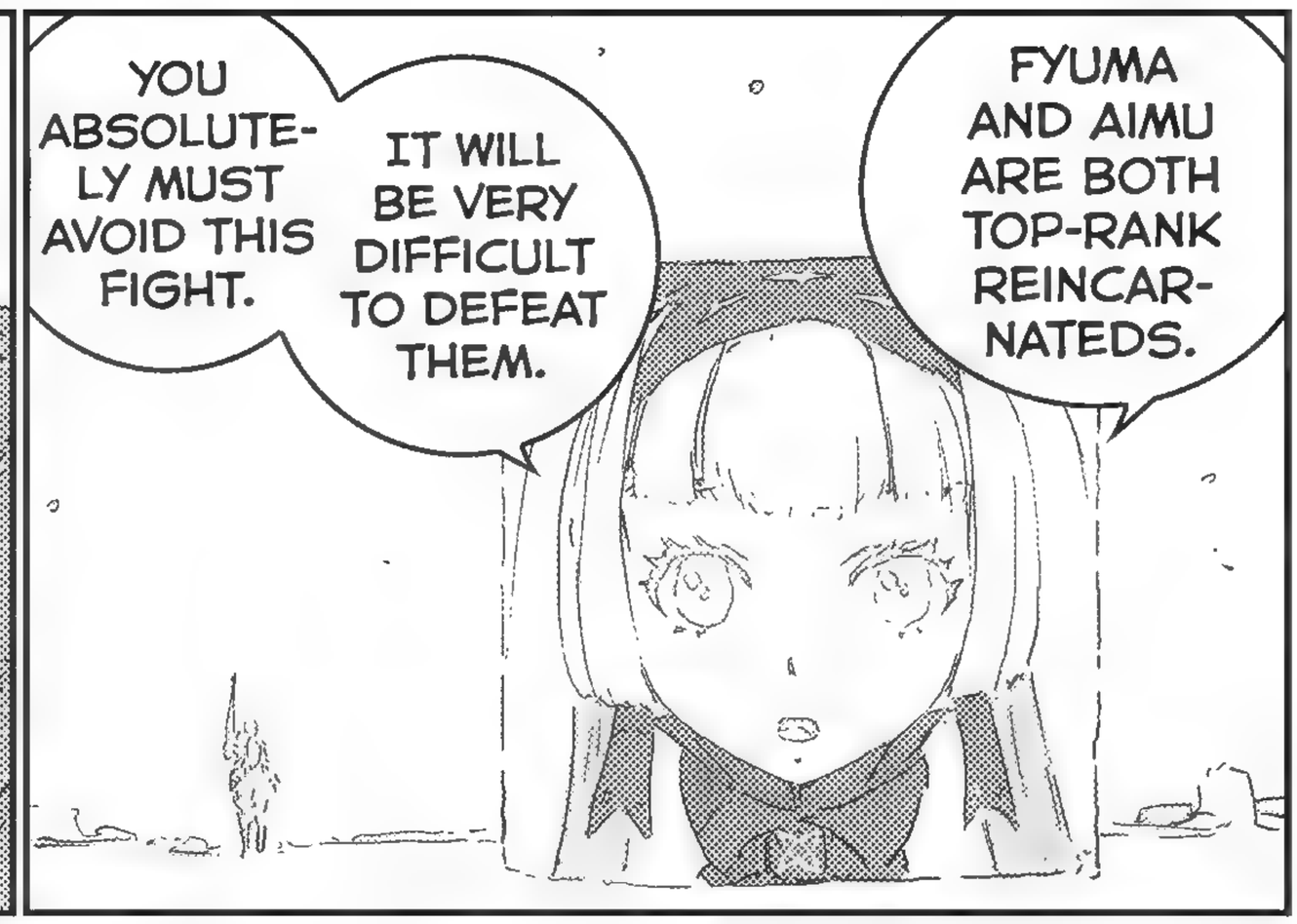
HE'S DEAD ...

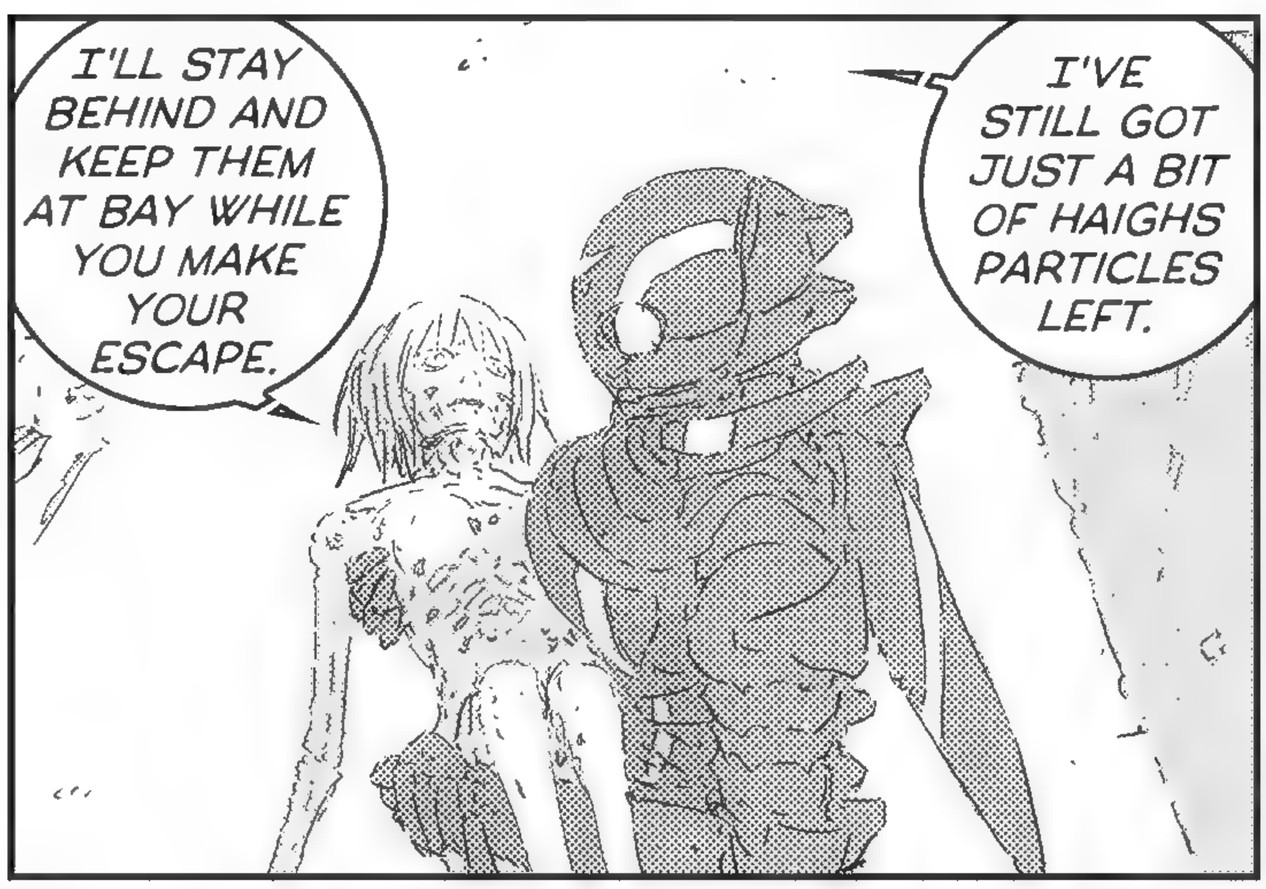


SO YOU DEFEATED YIYU?
IMPRES-SIVE.

ETHEROW OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM, I PRESUME.

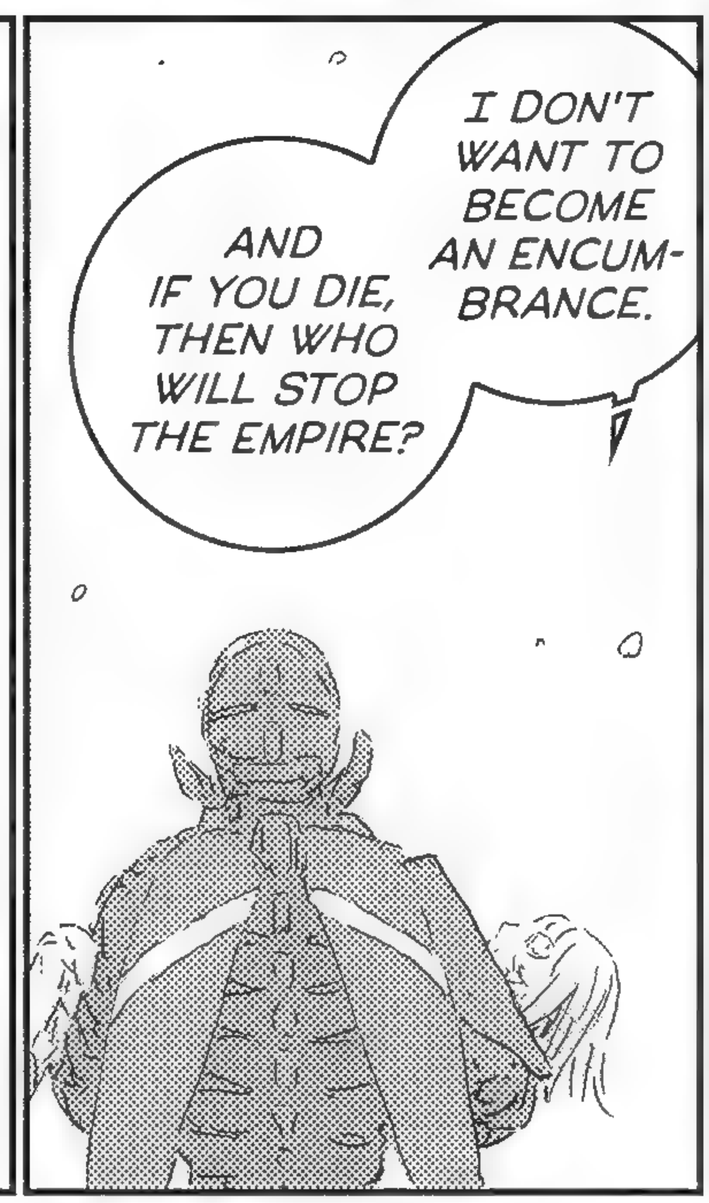
YEAH. I'VE HARDLY ANY HAIGHS PARTICLES LEFT.
WE'LL BREAK AWAY SOME-HOW.


YOU ABSOLUTE-LY MUST AVOID THIS FIGHT.
IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEFEAT THEM.
FYUMA AND AIMU ARE BOTH TOP-RANK REINCAR-NATEDS.


I'LL STAY BEHIND AND KEEP THEM AT BAY WHILE YOU MAKE YOUR ESCAPE.
I'VE STILL GOT JUST A BIT OF HAIGHS PARTICLES LEFT.

PUT ME DOWN, ETHEROW.

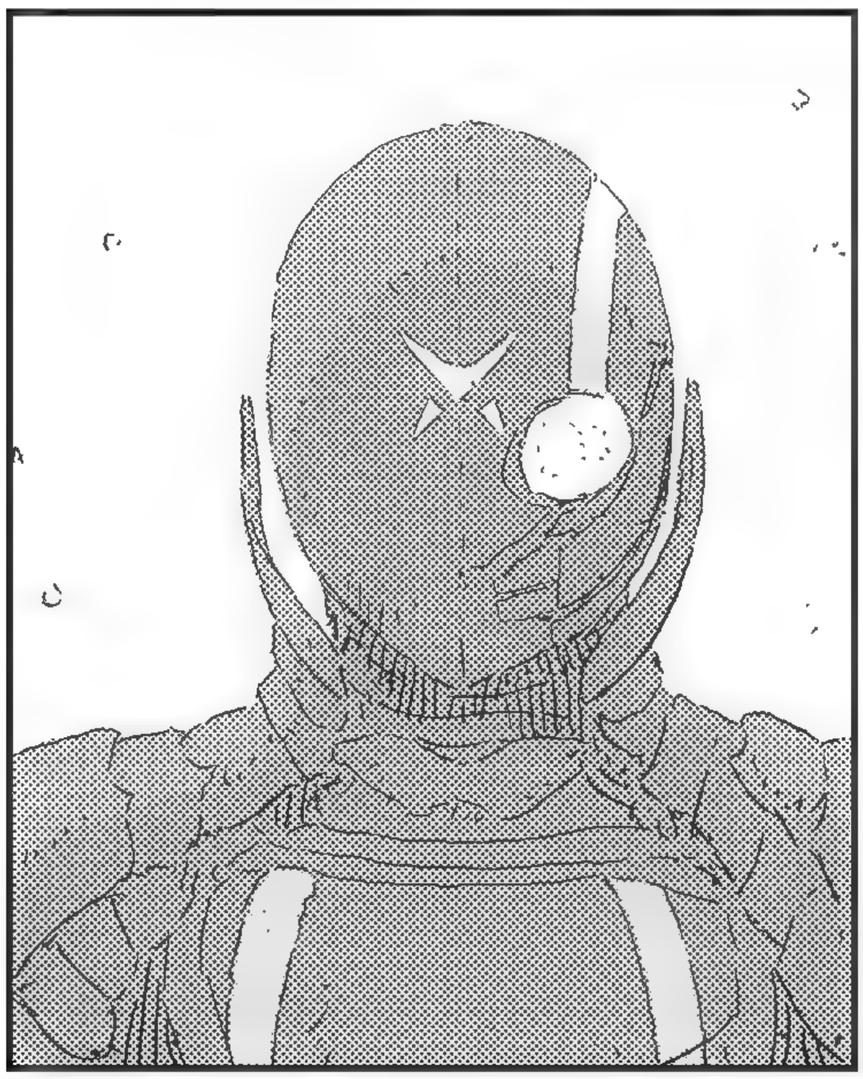
BUT LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I'M SURE TITANIA HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU,


AND IF YOU DIE, THEN WHO WILL STOP THE EMPIRE?
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME AN ENCUM-BRANCE.

I WON'T JUST LEAVE YOU BEHIND, KEISHA.

A REINCARNATED OF THE EMPIRE OF REBEDOA.

I AM FYUMA,

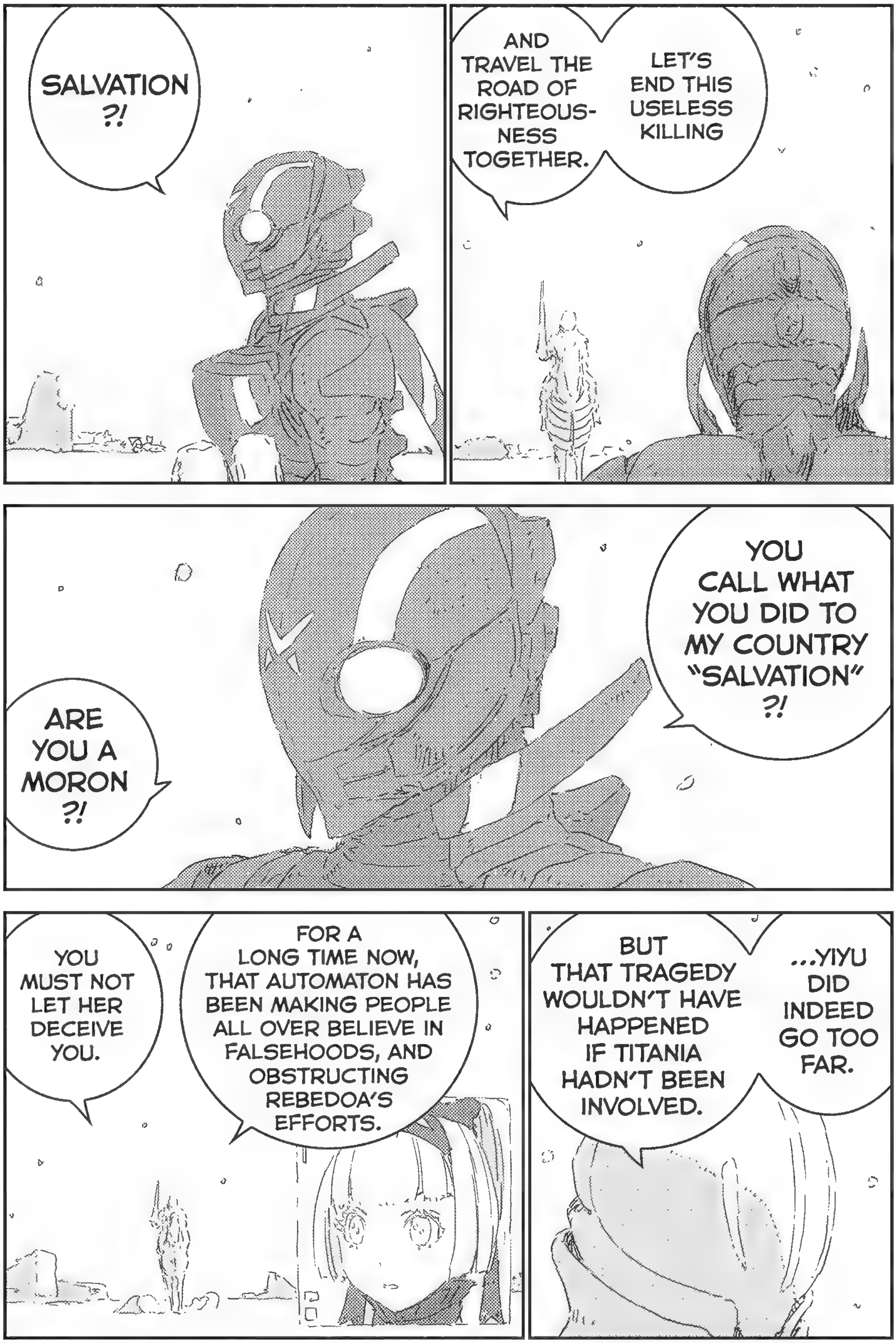


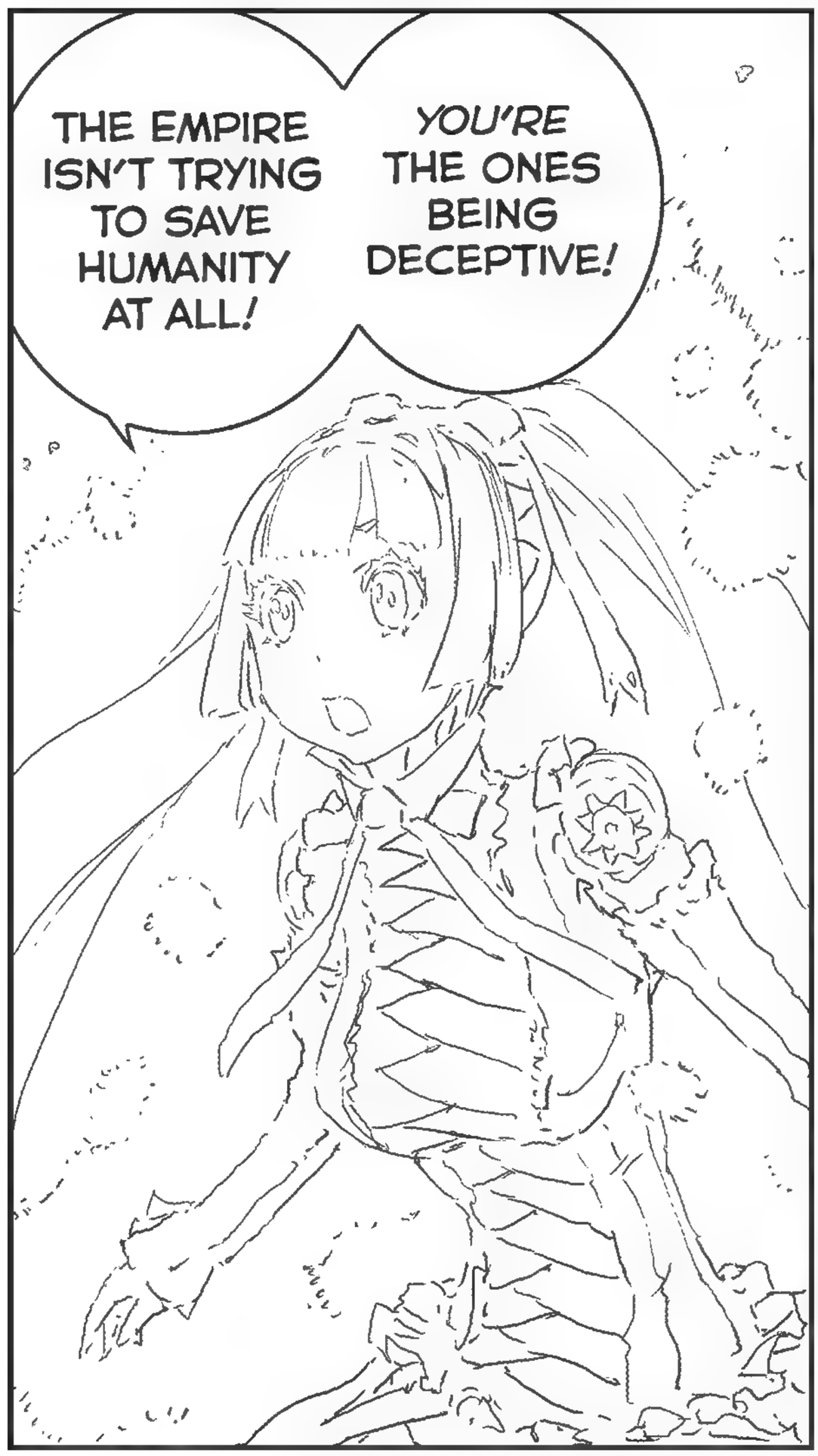
LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

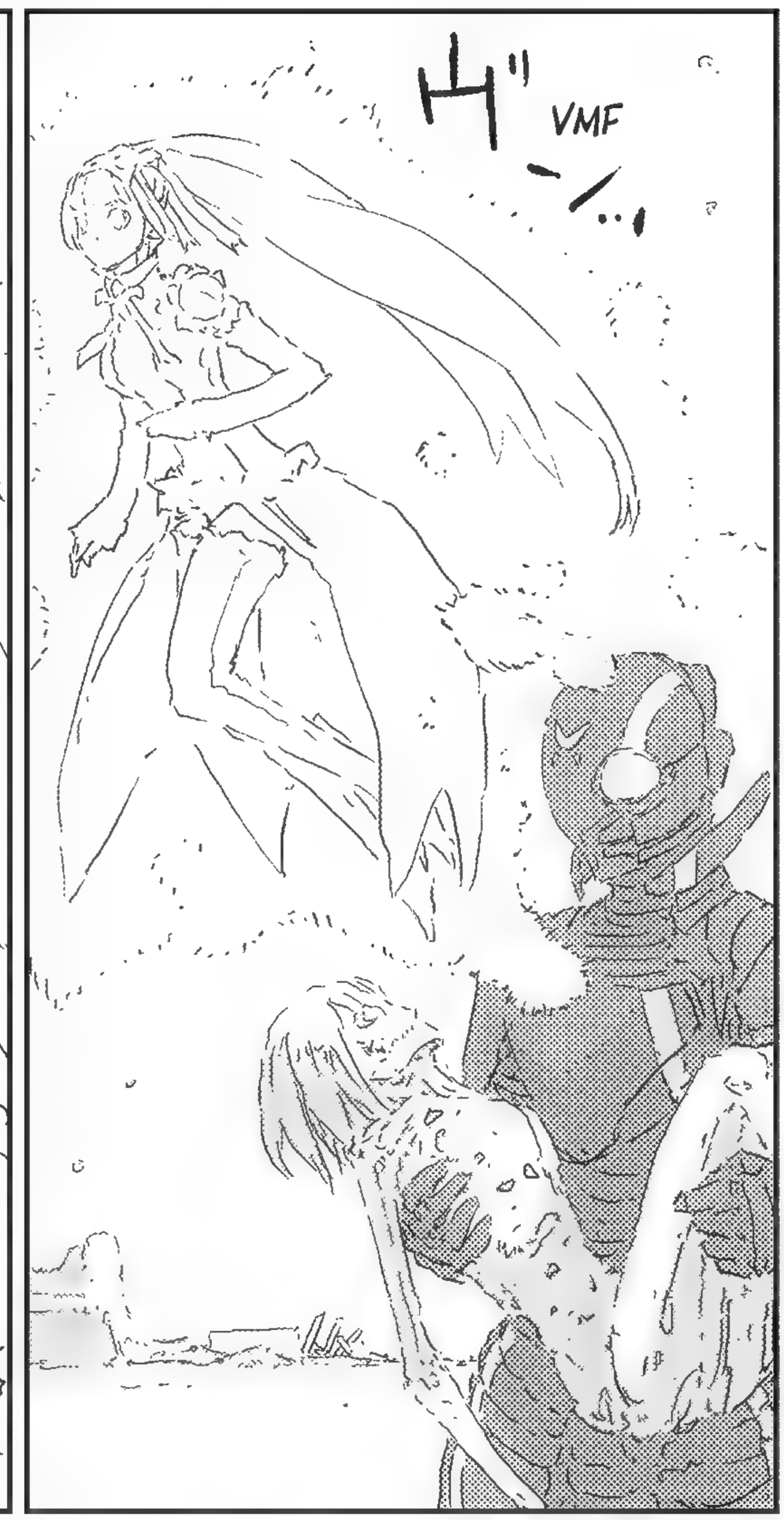
I WOULD RATHER NOT FIGHT, IF POSSIBLE.

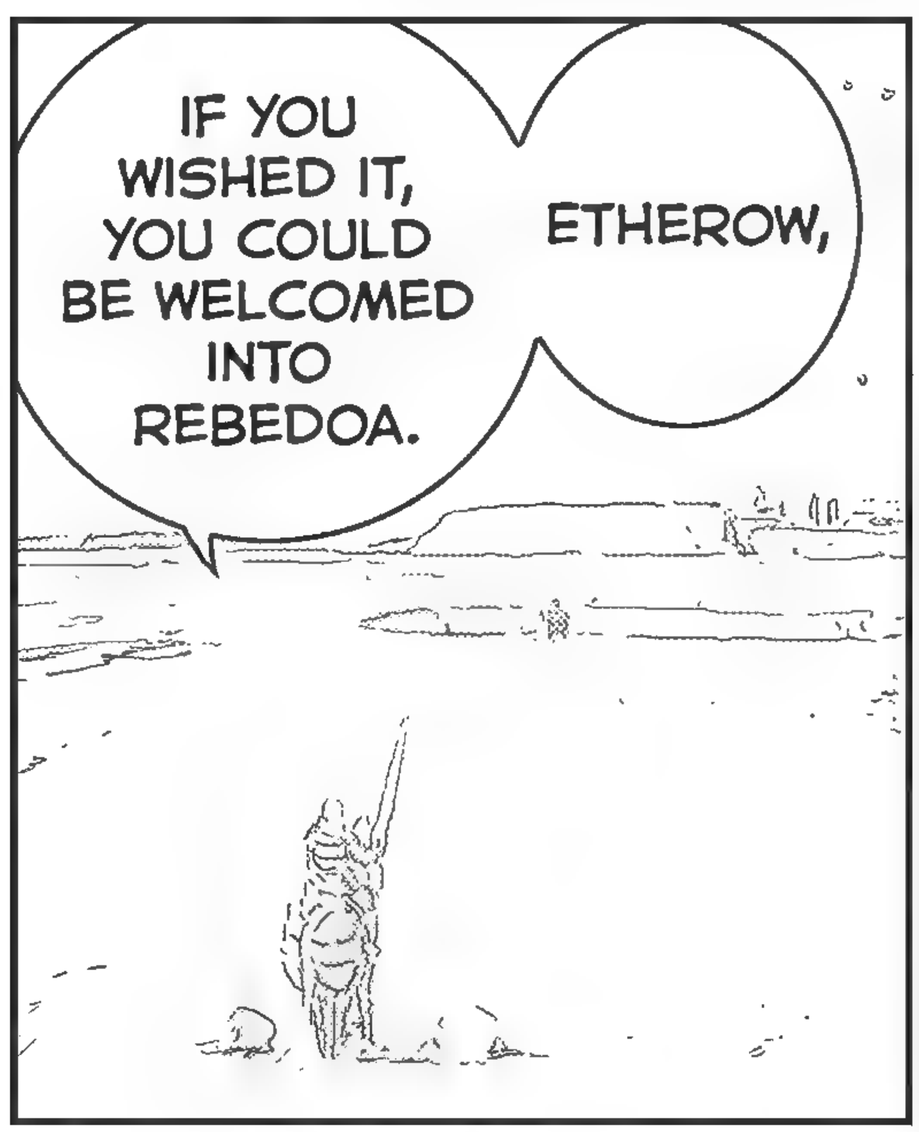
OUR BASIC IDEOLOGY IS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF HUMANITY, NOT FIGHTING AGAINST FELLOW HUMANS.

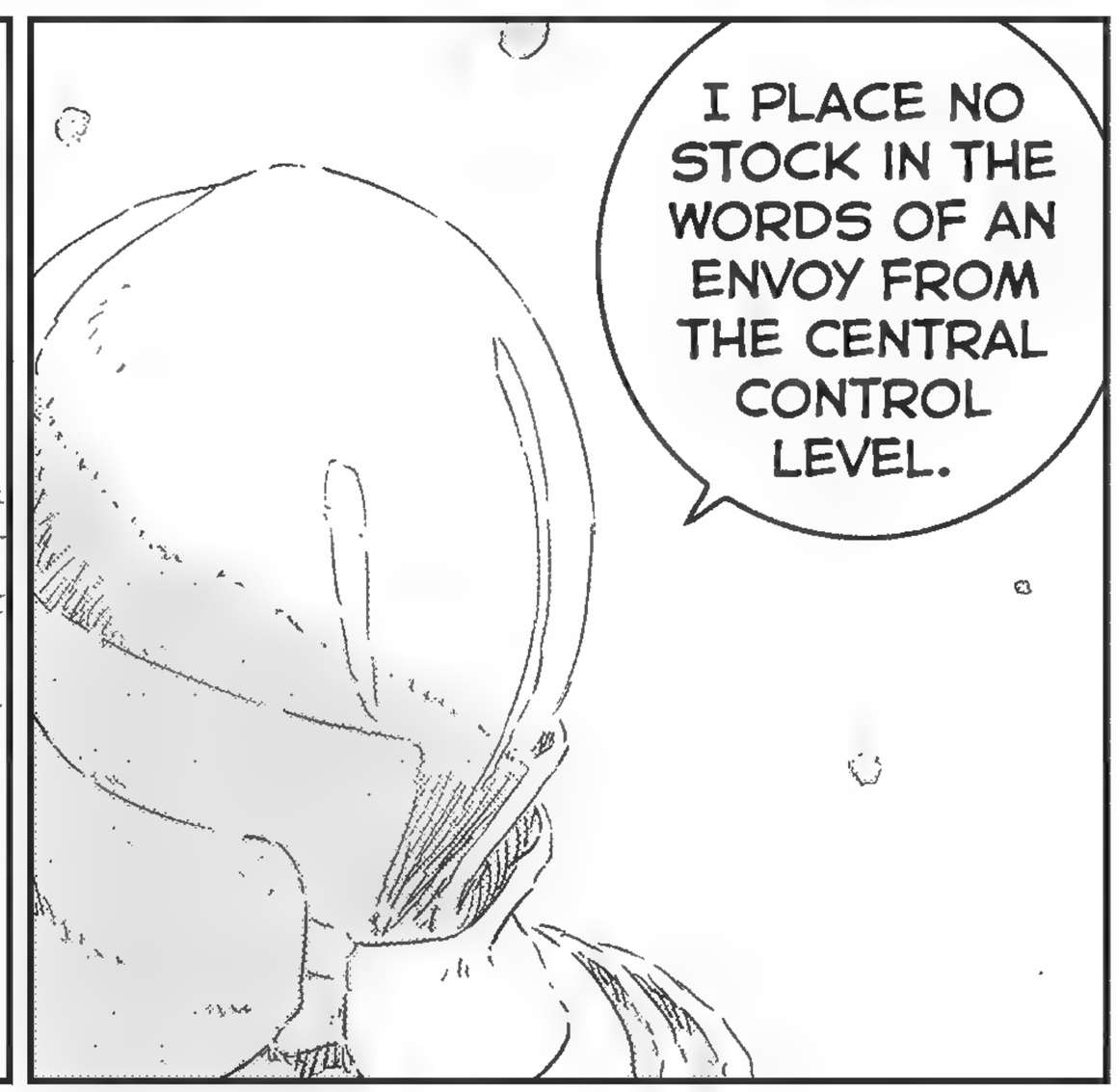
WE OF THE REBEDOAN EMPIRE ARE WORKING TO RECAPTURE THE RIGHTS OF HUMANS FROM THE CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL.

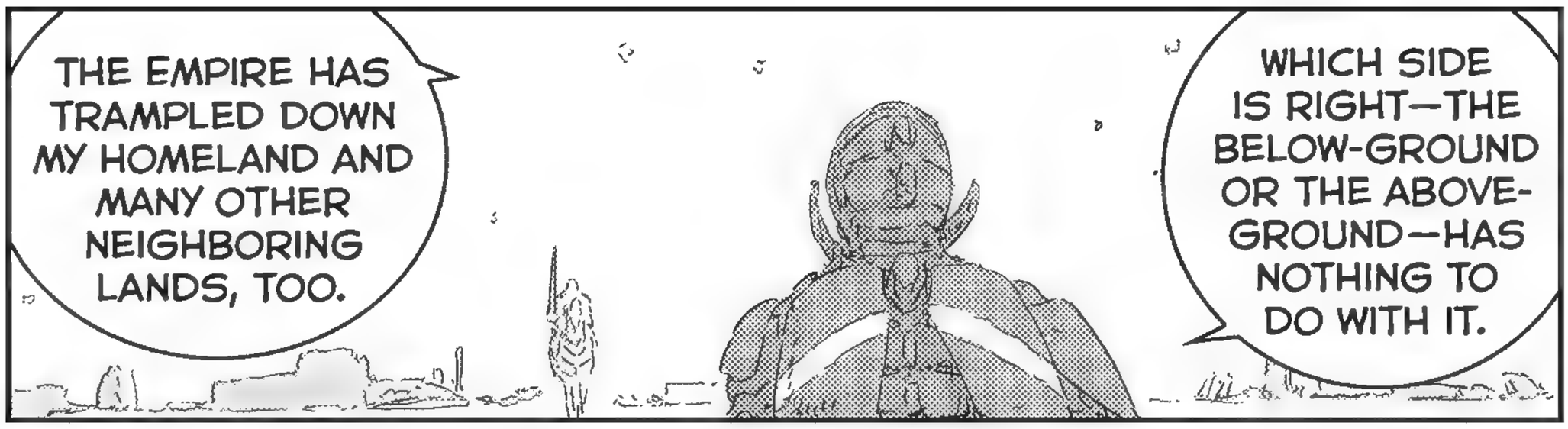

SALVATION ?!
AND TRAVEL THE ROAD OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS TOGETHER.
LET'S END THIS USELESS KILLING
ARE YOU A MORON ?!
YOU CALL WHAT YOU DID TO MY COUNTRY "SALVATION" ?!
YOU MUST NOT LET HER DECEIVE YOU.
FOR A LONG TIME NOW, THAT AUTOMATON HAS BEEN MAKING PEOPLE ALL OVER BELIEVE IN FALSEHOODS, AND OBSTRUCTING REBEDOA'S EFFORTS.
BUT THAT TRAGEDY WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF TITANIA HADN'T BEEN INVOLVED.
...YIYU DID INDEED GO TOO FAR.

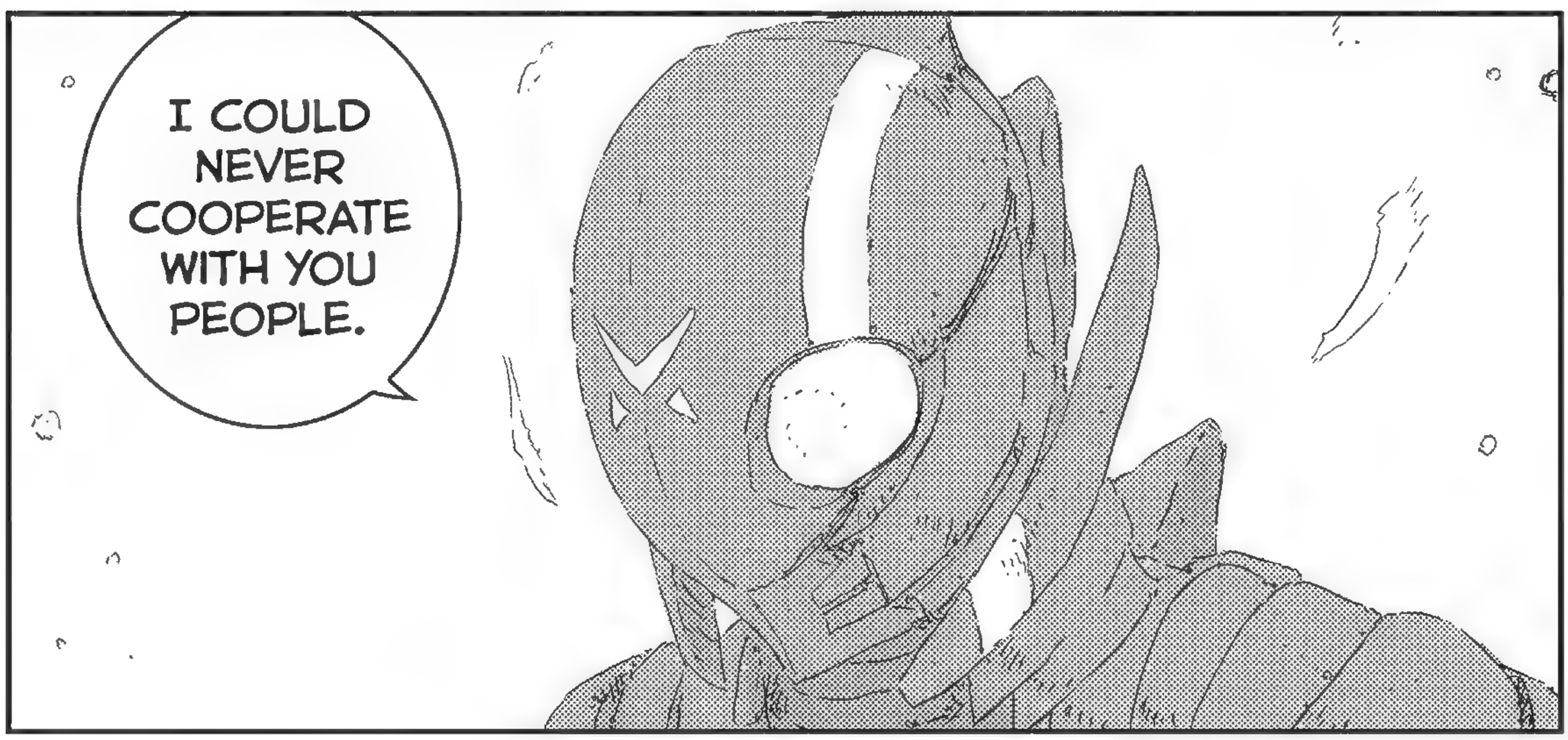

THE EMPIRE ISN'T TRYING TO SAVE HUMANITY AT ALL!
YOU'RE THE ONES BEING DECEPTIVE!

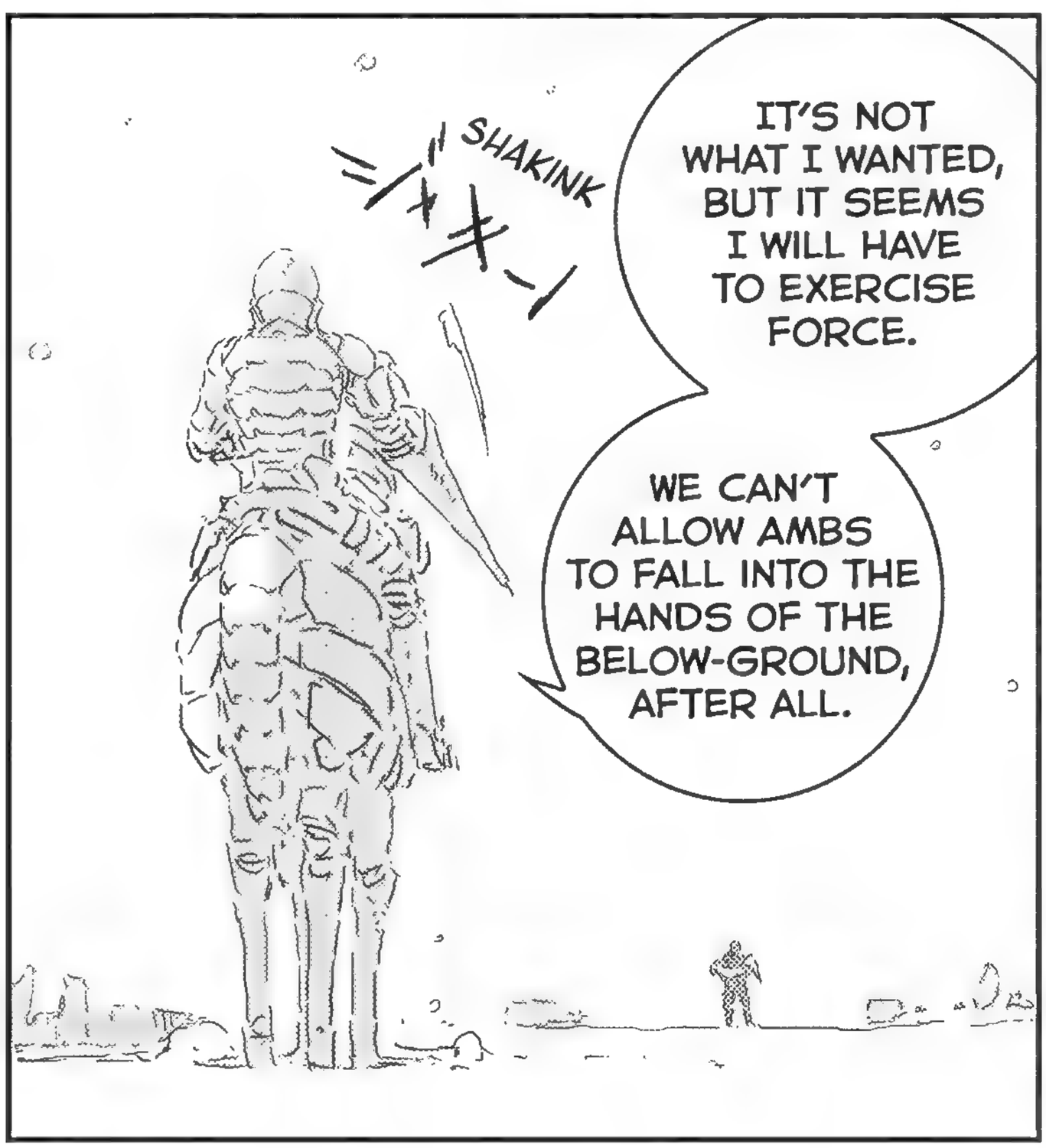

VMF


IF YOU WISHED IT, YOU COULD BE WELCOMED INTO REBEDOA.
ETHEROW,

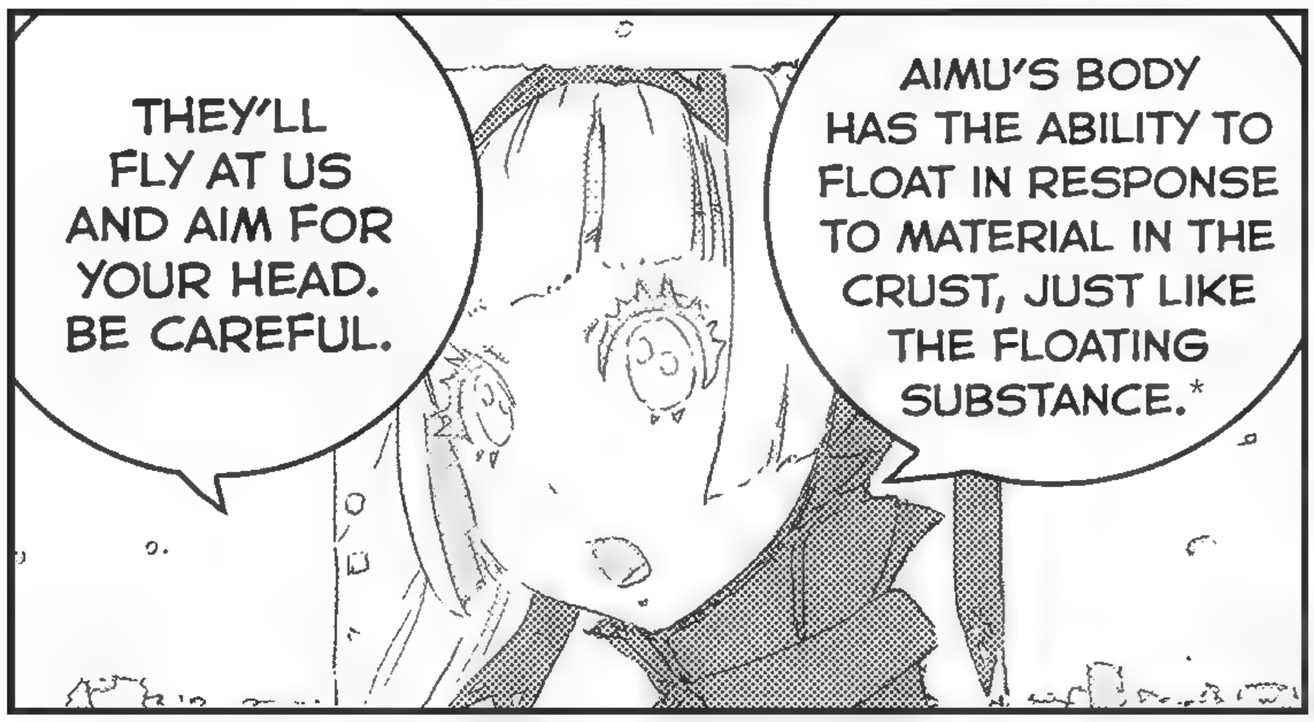

I PLACE NO STOCK IN THE WORDS OF AN ENVOY FROM THE CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL.

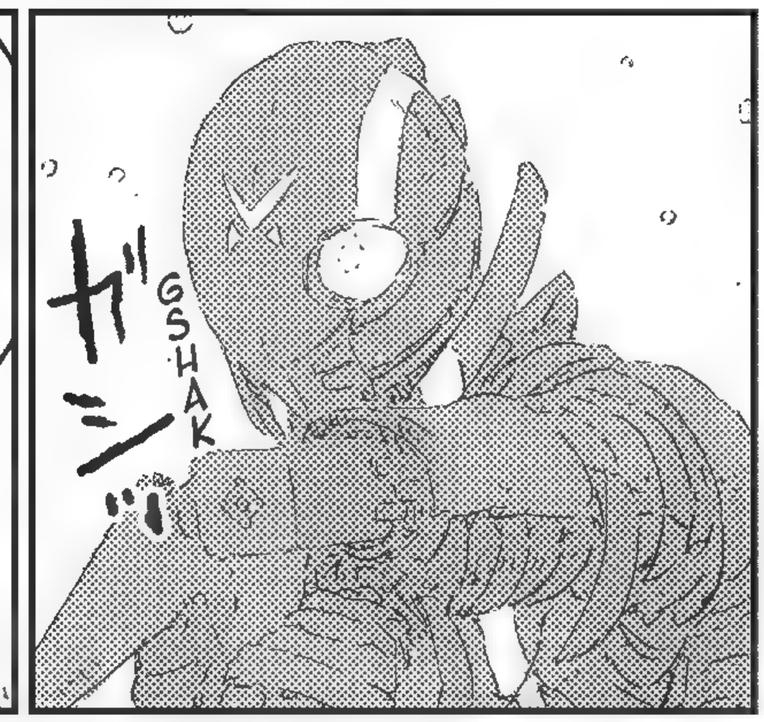

THE EMPIRE HAS TRAMPLED DOWN MY HOMELAND AND MANY OTHER NEIGHBORING LANDS, TOO.
WHICH SIDE IS RIGHT—THE BELOW-GROUND OR THE ABOVE-GROUND—HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.


I COULD NEVER COOPERATE WITH YOU PEOPLE.

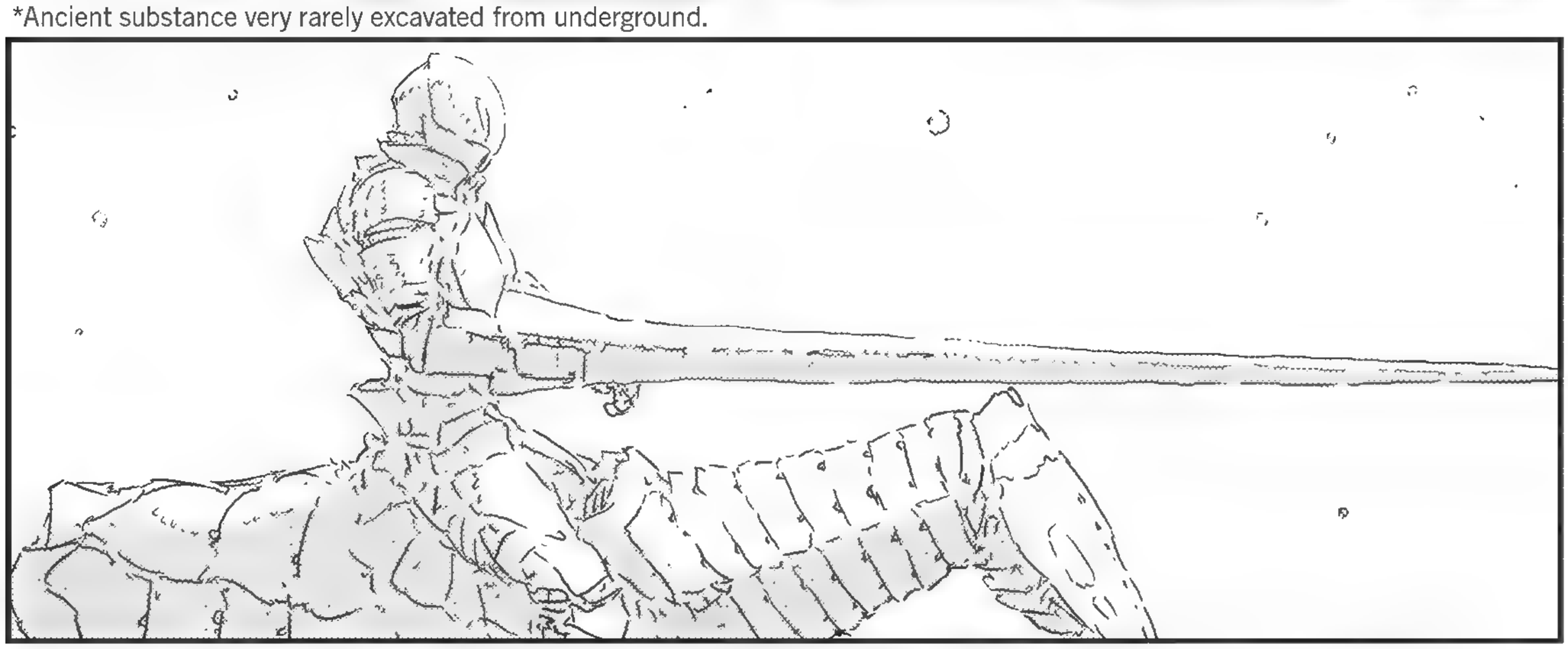

SHAKINK
IT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED, BUT IT SEEMS I WILL HAVE TO EXERCISE FORCE.
WE CAN'T ALLOW AMBS TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE BELOW-GROUND, AFTER ALL.

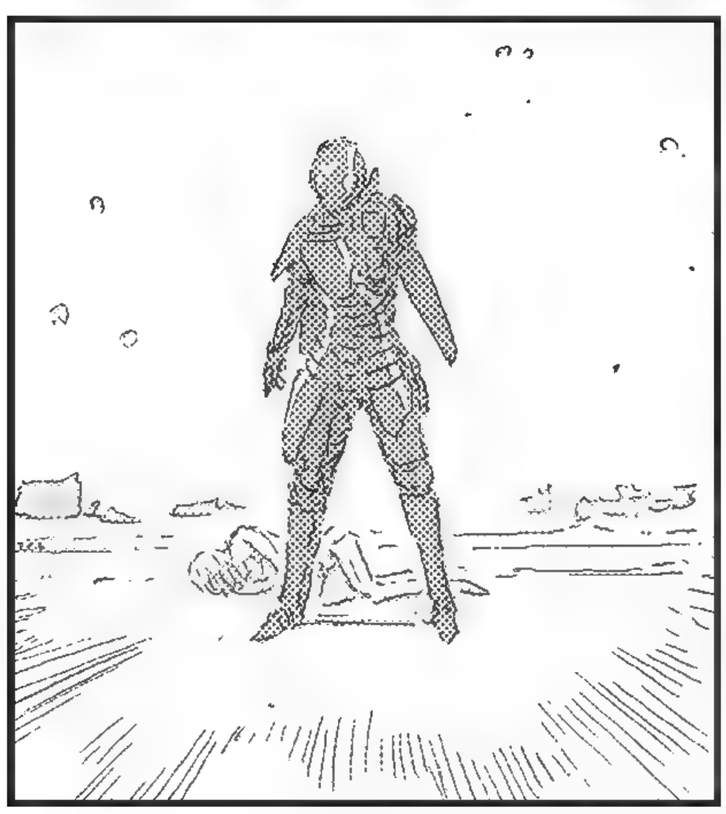
I SEE. SO FURTHER CONVERSATION WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME, THEN?

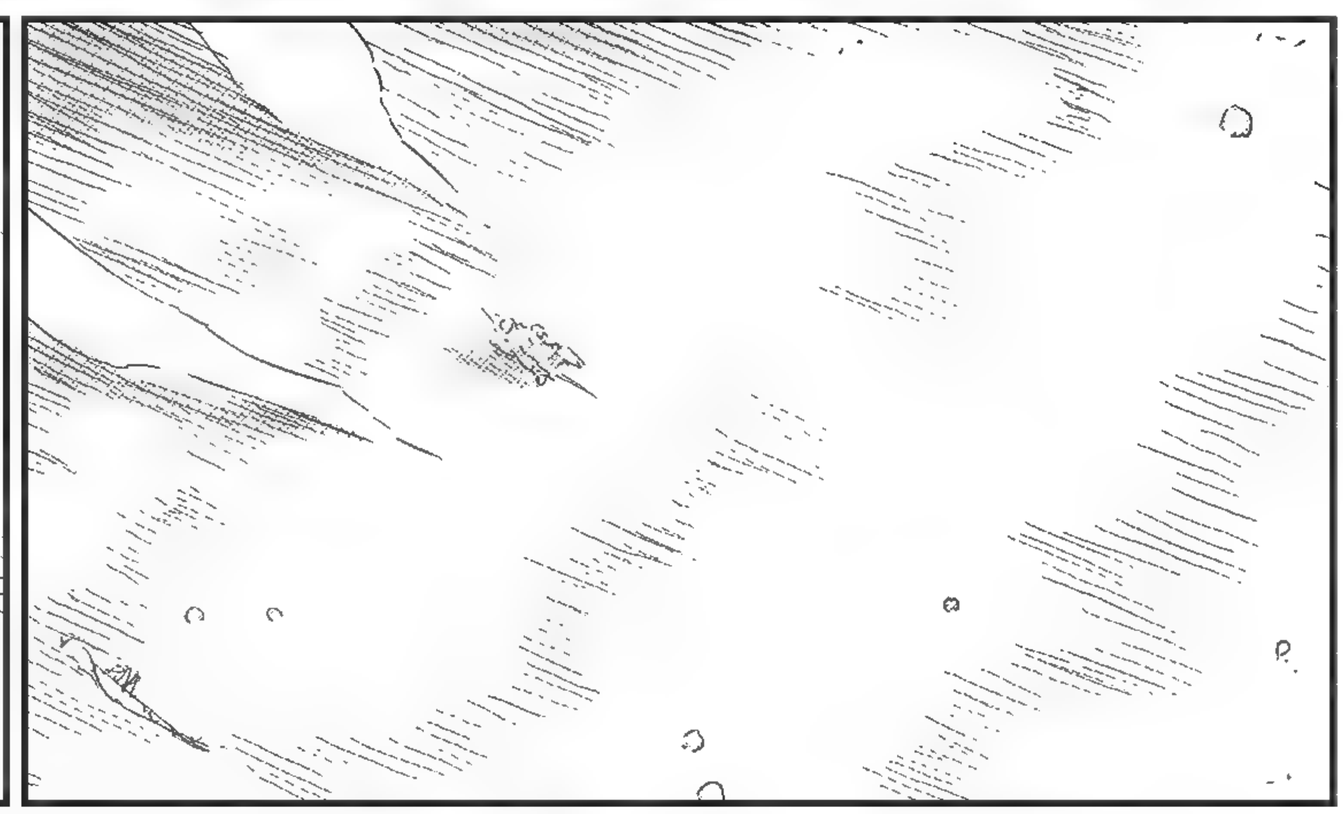


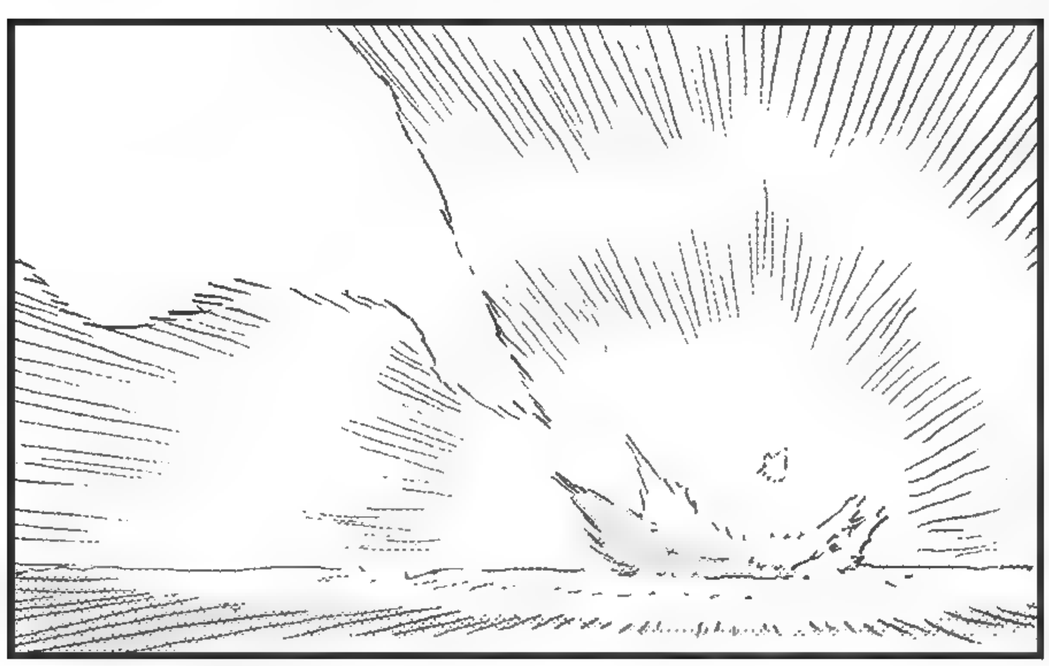


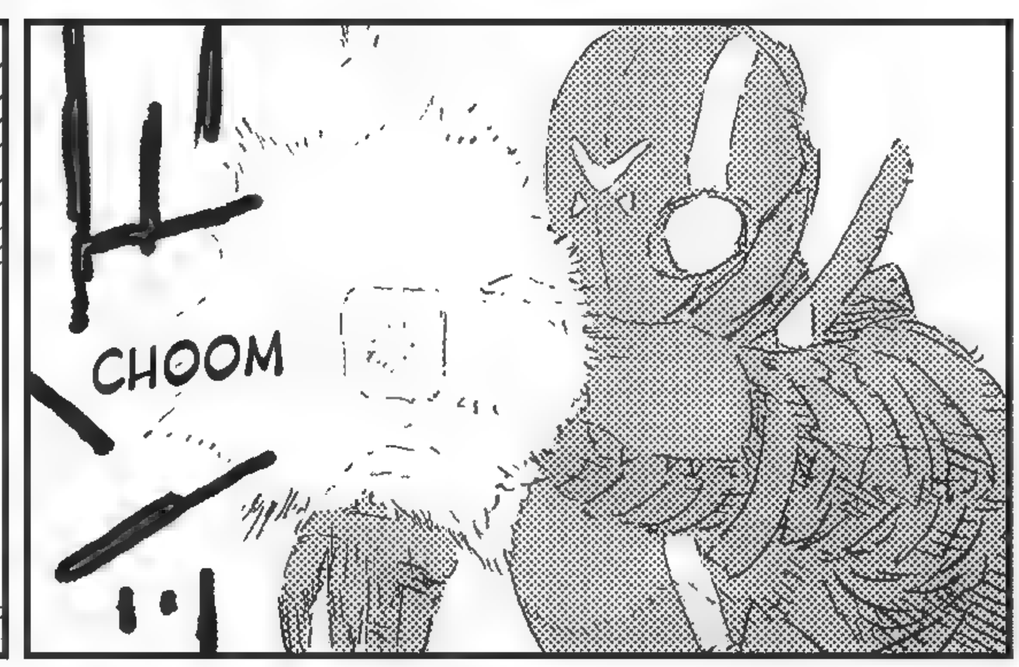
*Ancient substance very rarely excavated from underground.





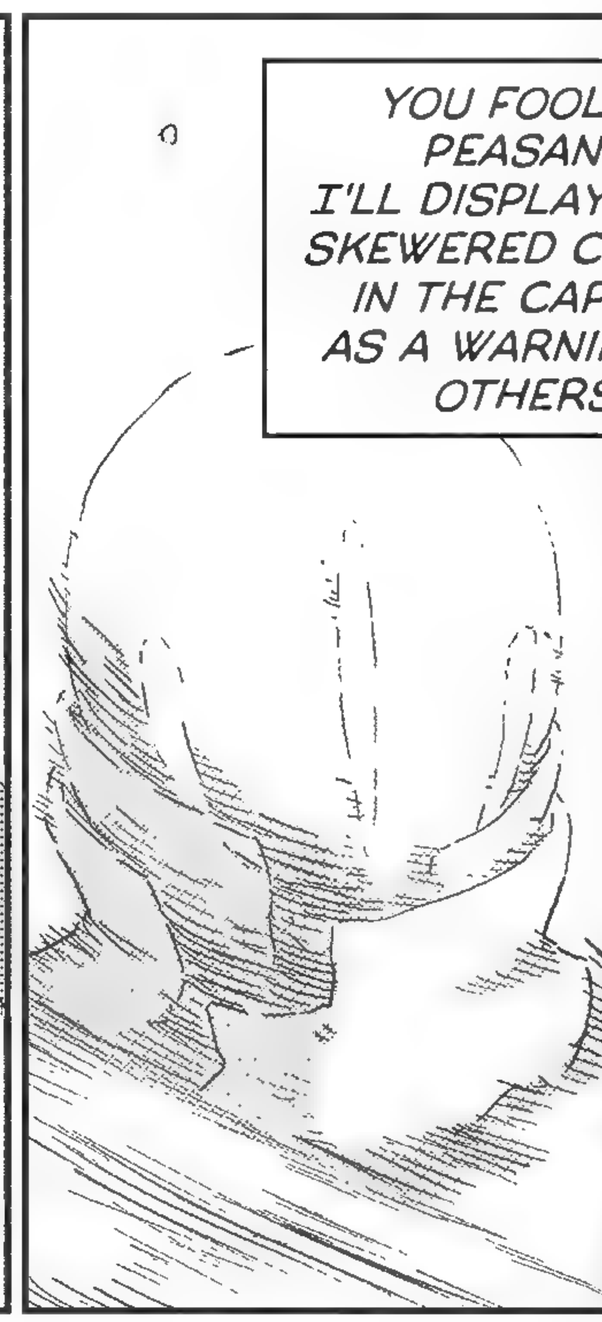


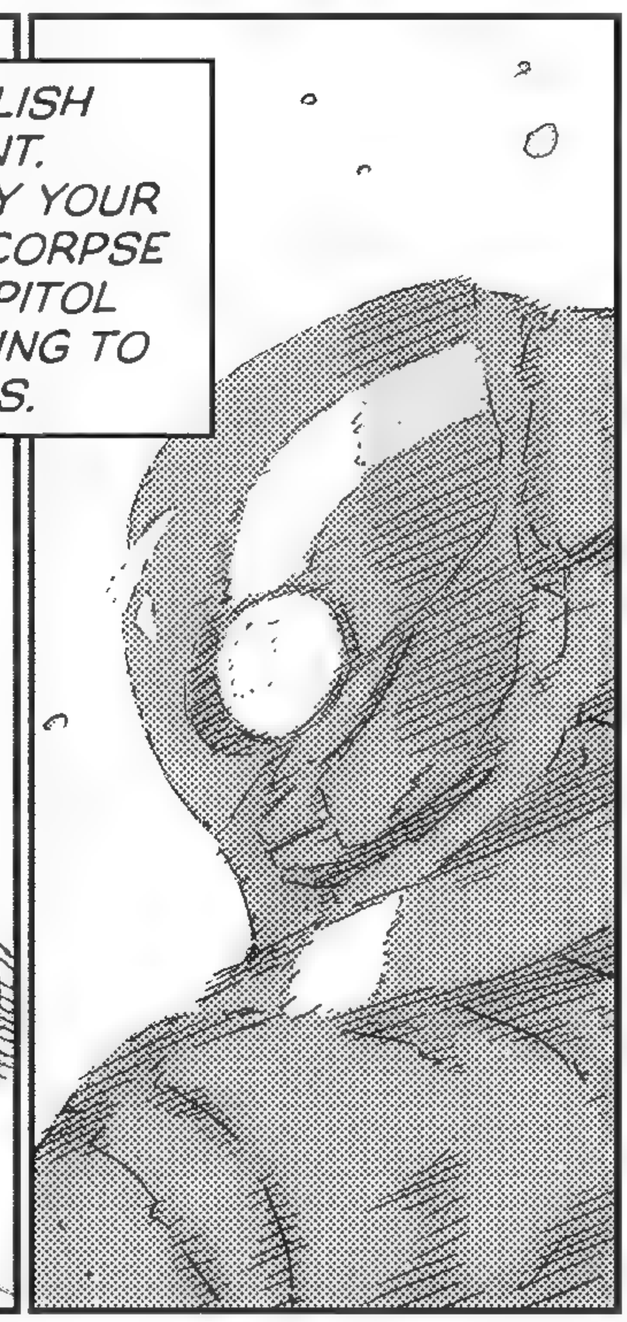


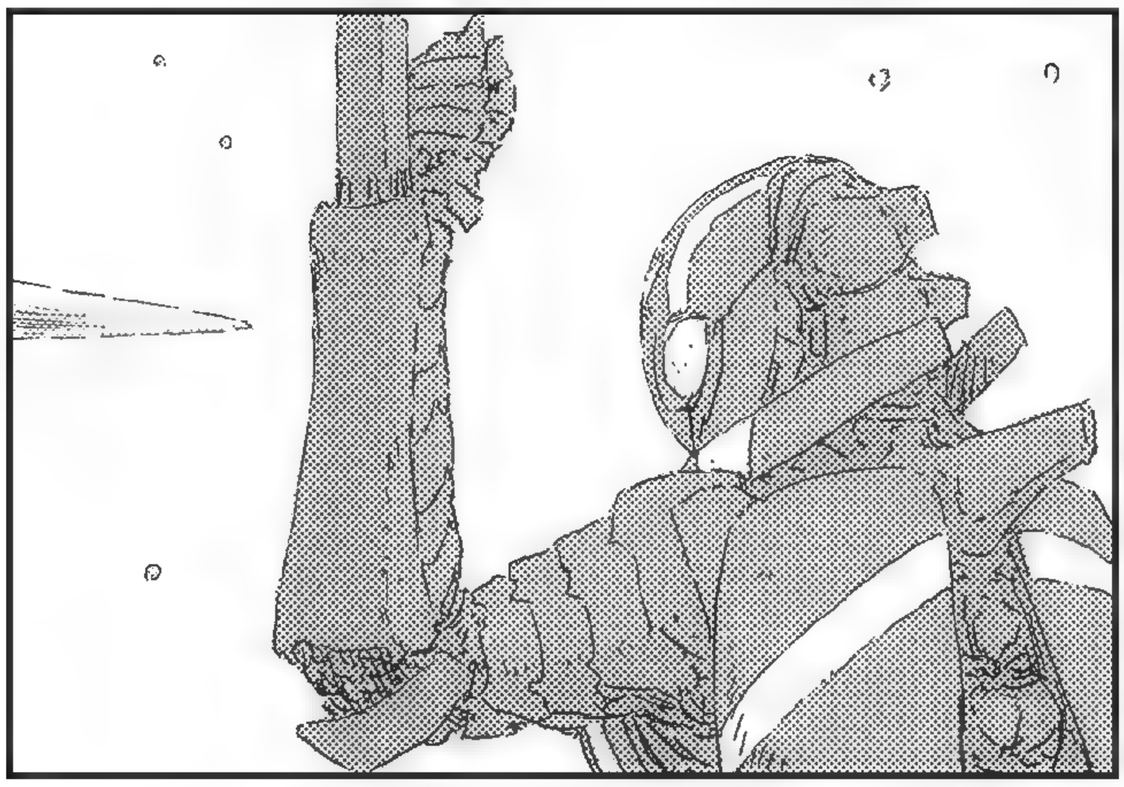


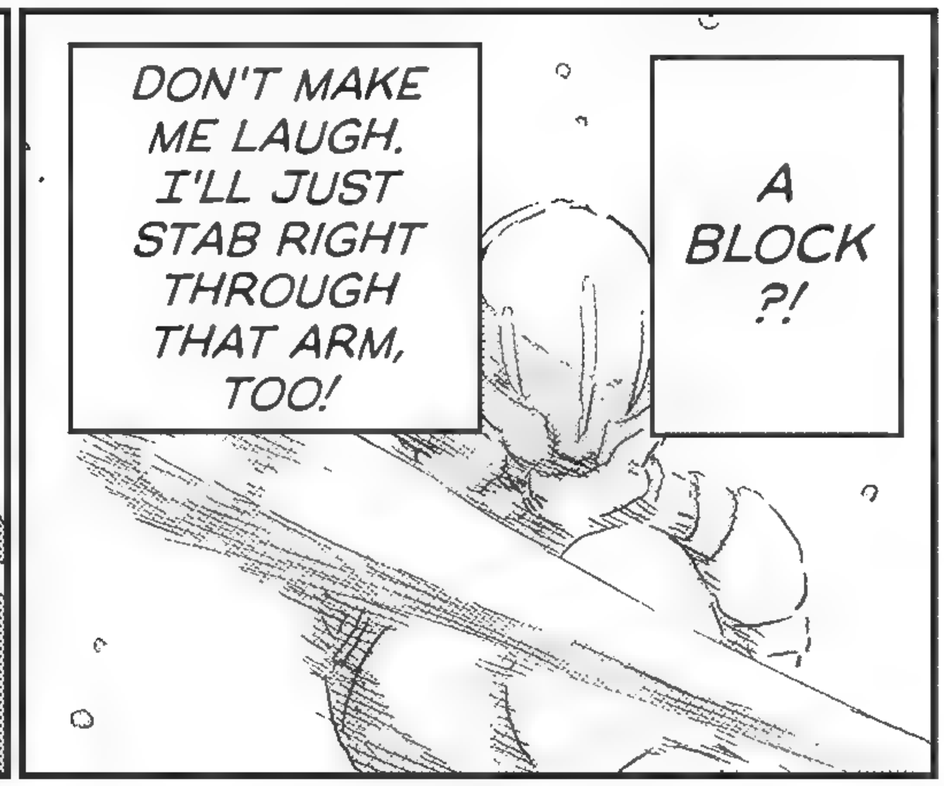
I'VE GOT YOUR HEAD!

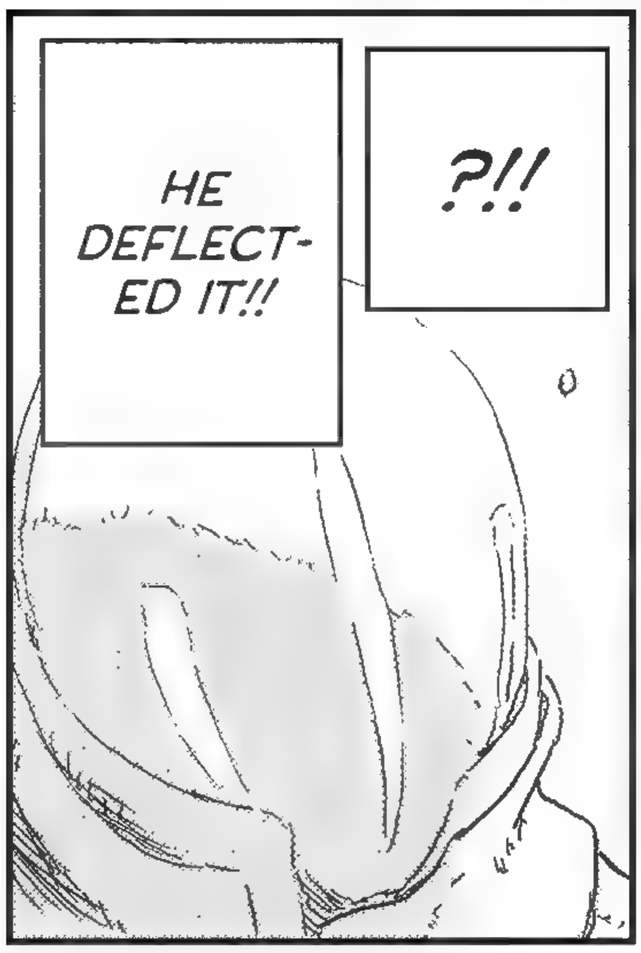
THE GALL OF YOU TO TURN DOWN MY INVITATION, IF THAT'S ALL THE POWER YOU'VE GOT!

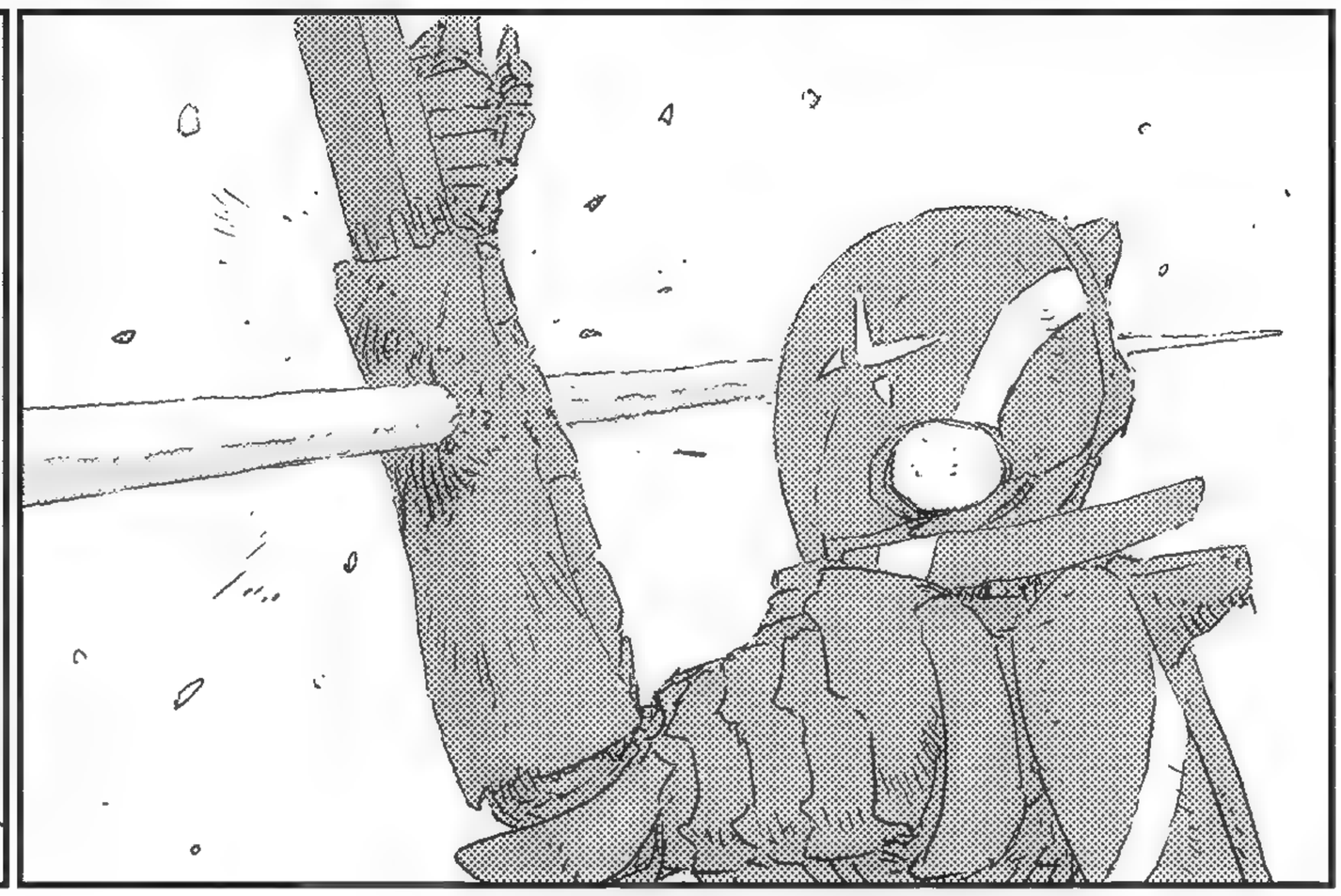


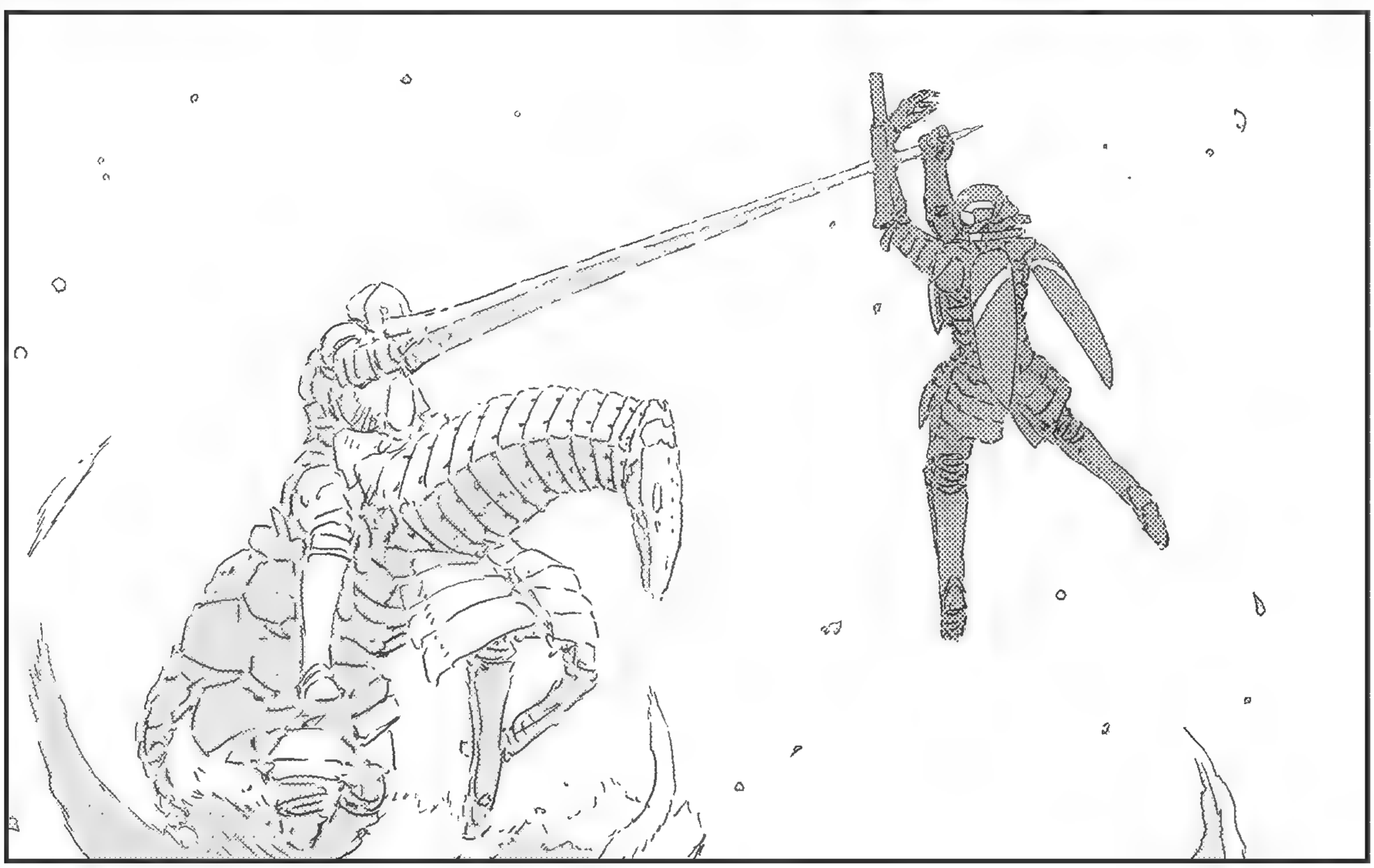





DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. I'LL JUST STAB RIGHT THROUGH THAT ARM, TOO!
A BLOCK ?!

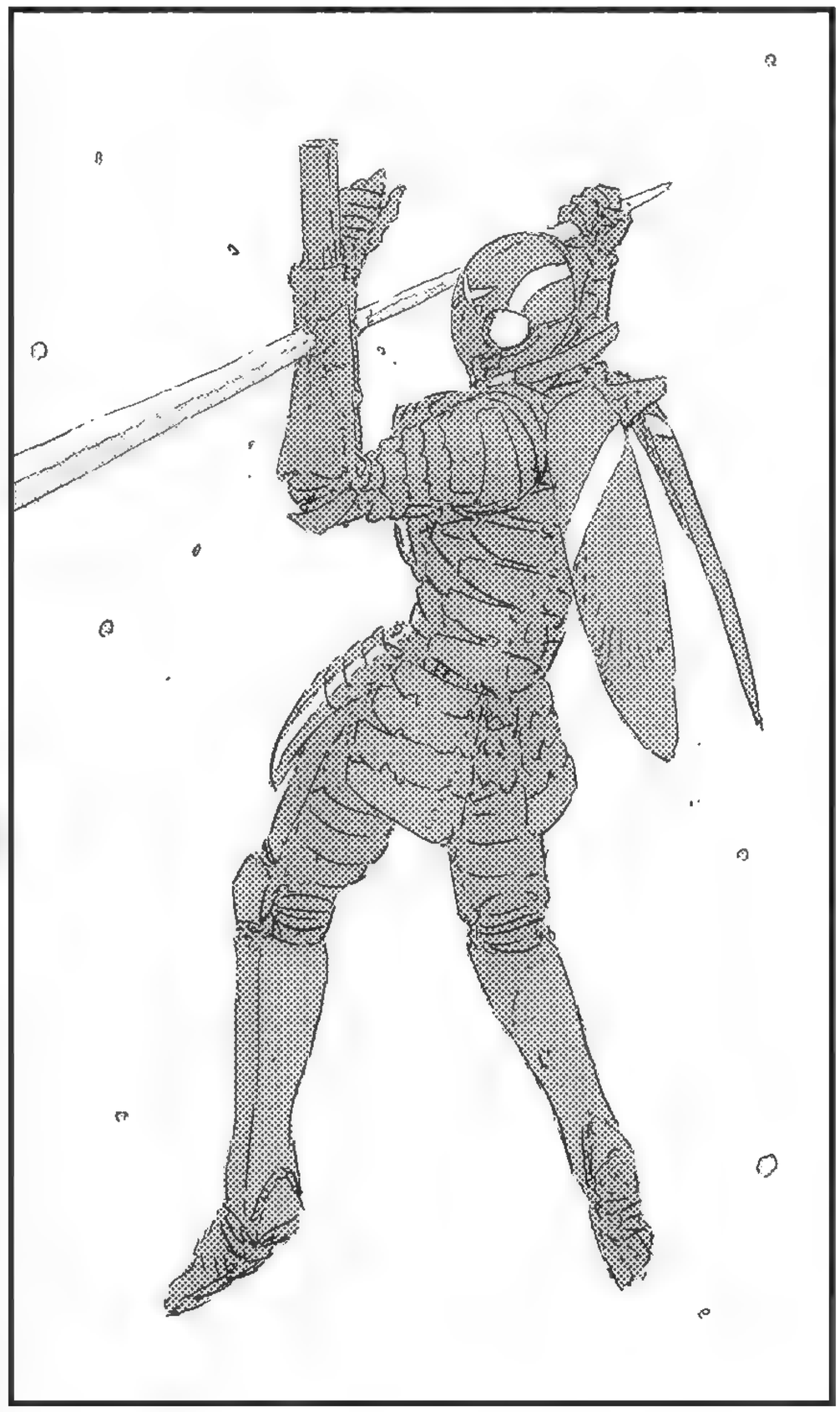

HE DEFLECT-ED IT!!
?!!

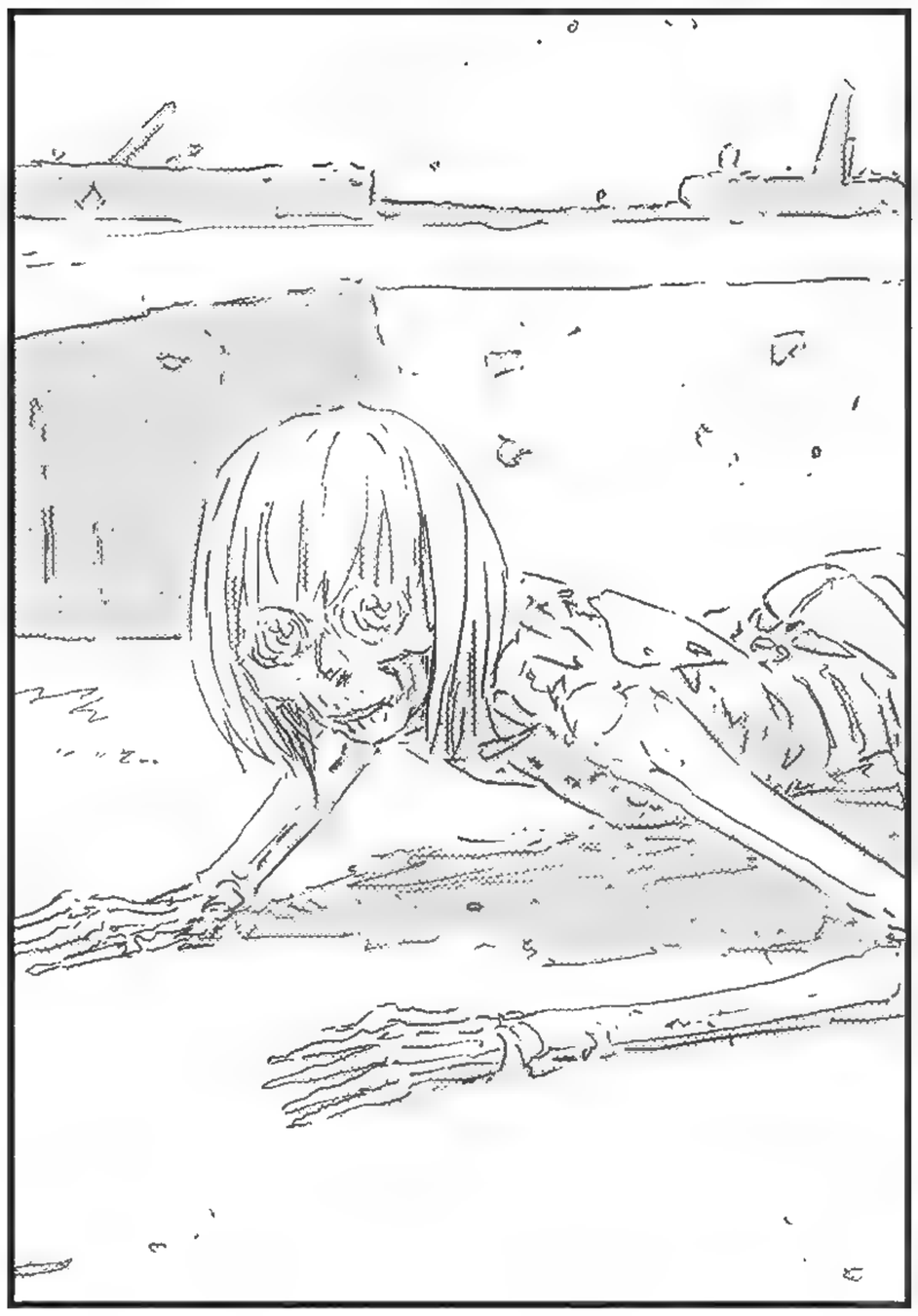




HE THOUGHT HE HAD NEUTRALIZED HIS OPPONENT'S WEAPON, BUT HIS OWN WEAPON WAS NEUTRALIZED AT THE SAME TIME.

FYUMA WAS TERRIBLY AFRAID.





PROJECTILE ACCELERATION APPARATUS

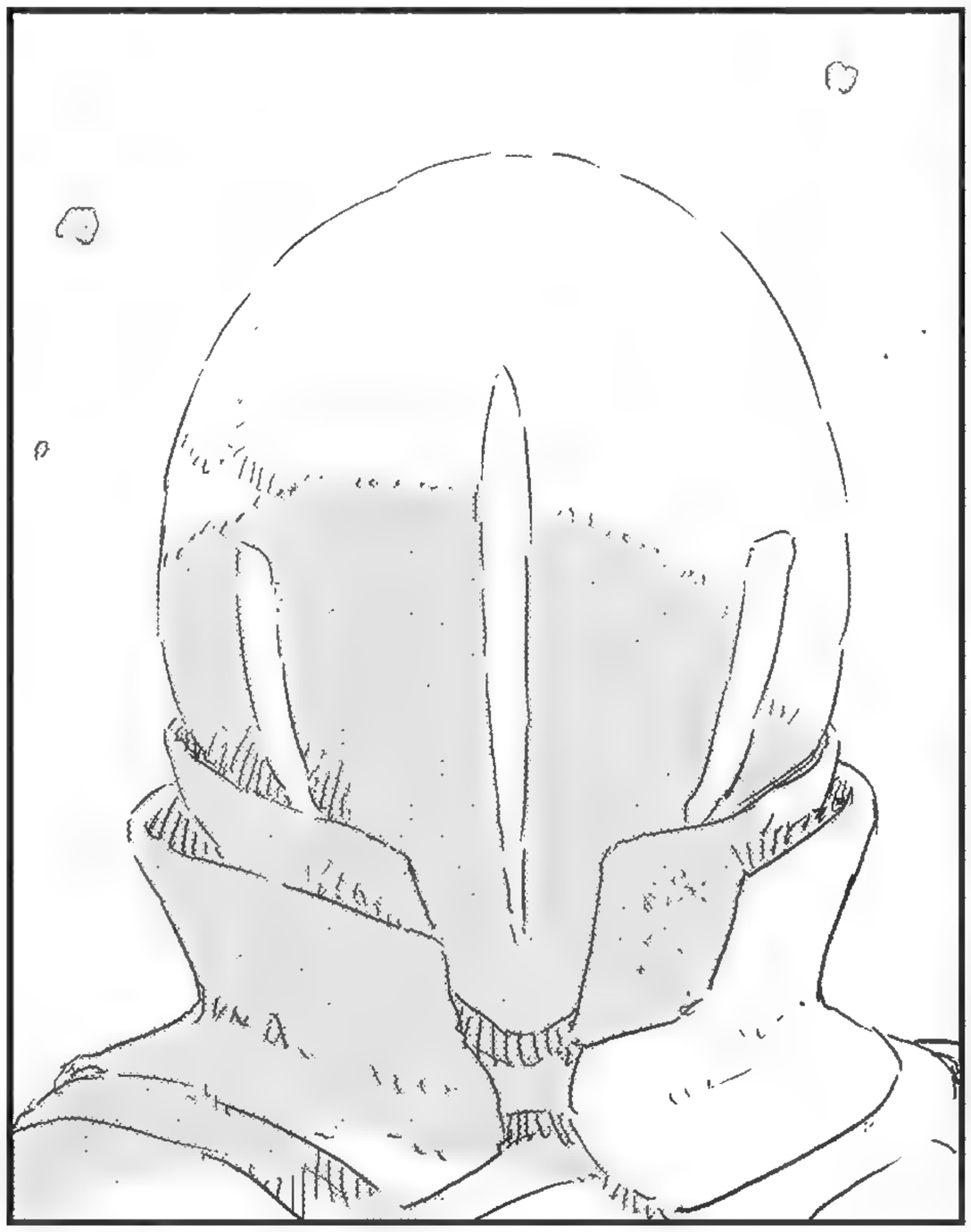
FOREARM

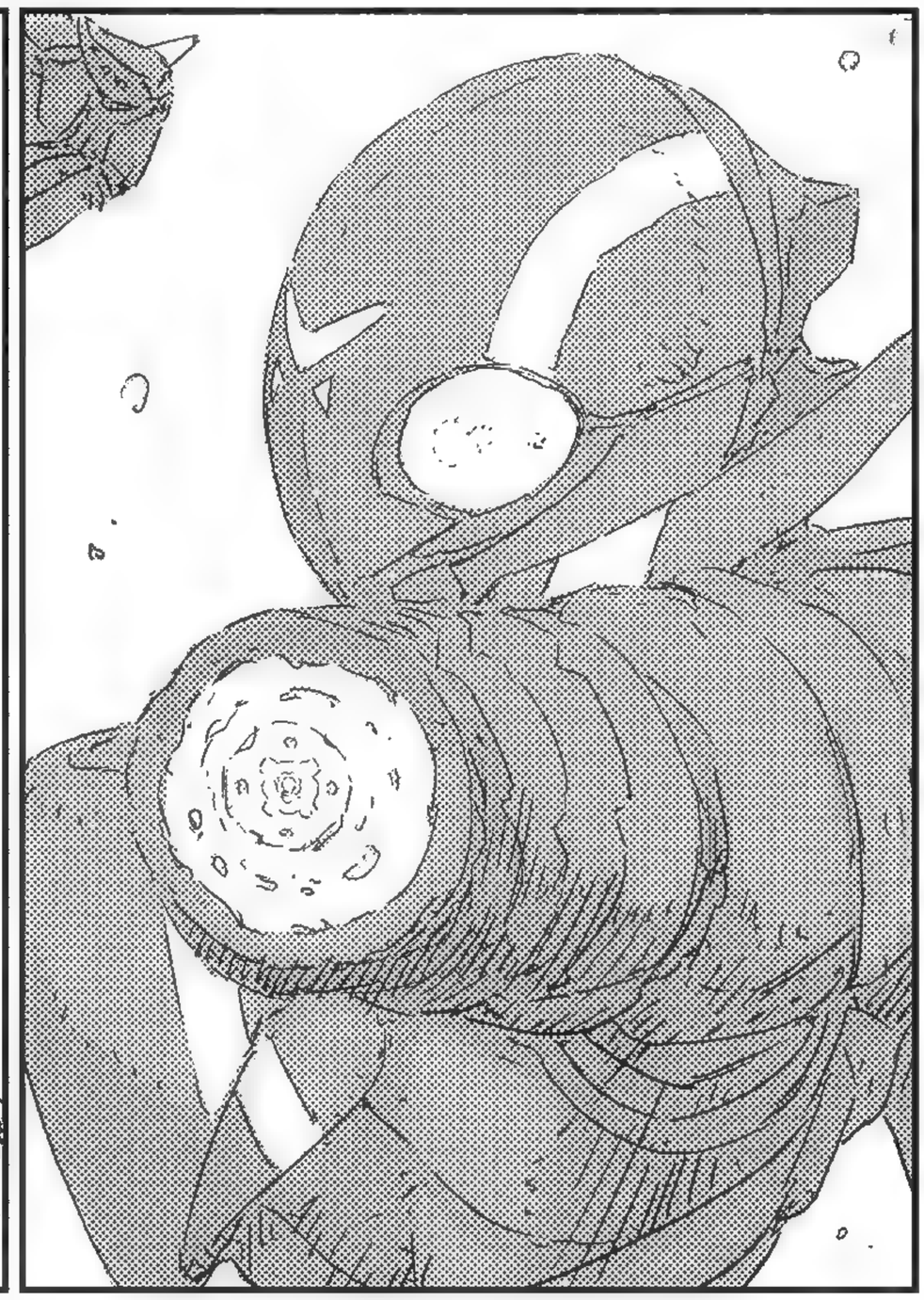
AMPUTATE

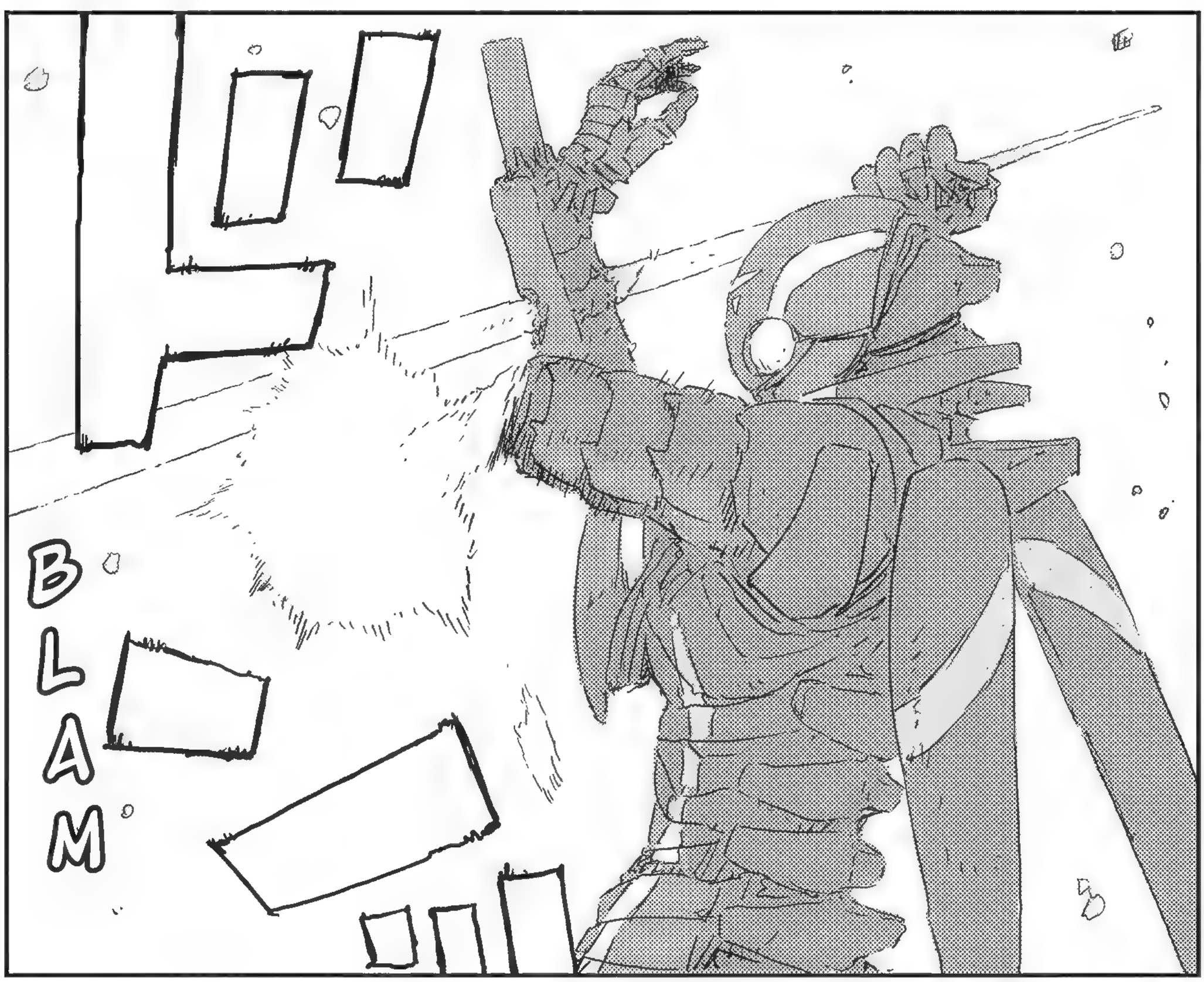
BIP

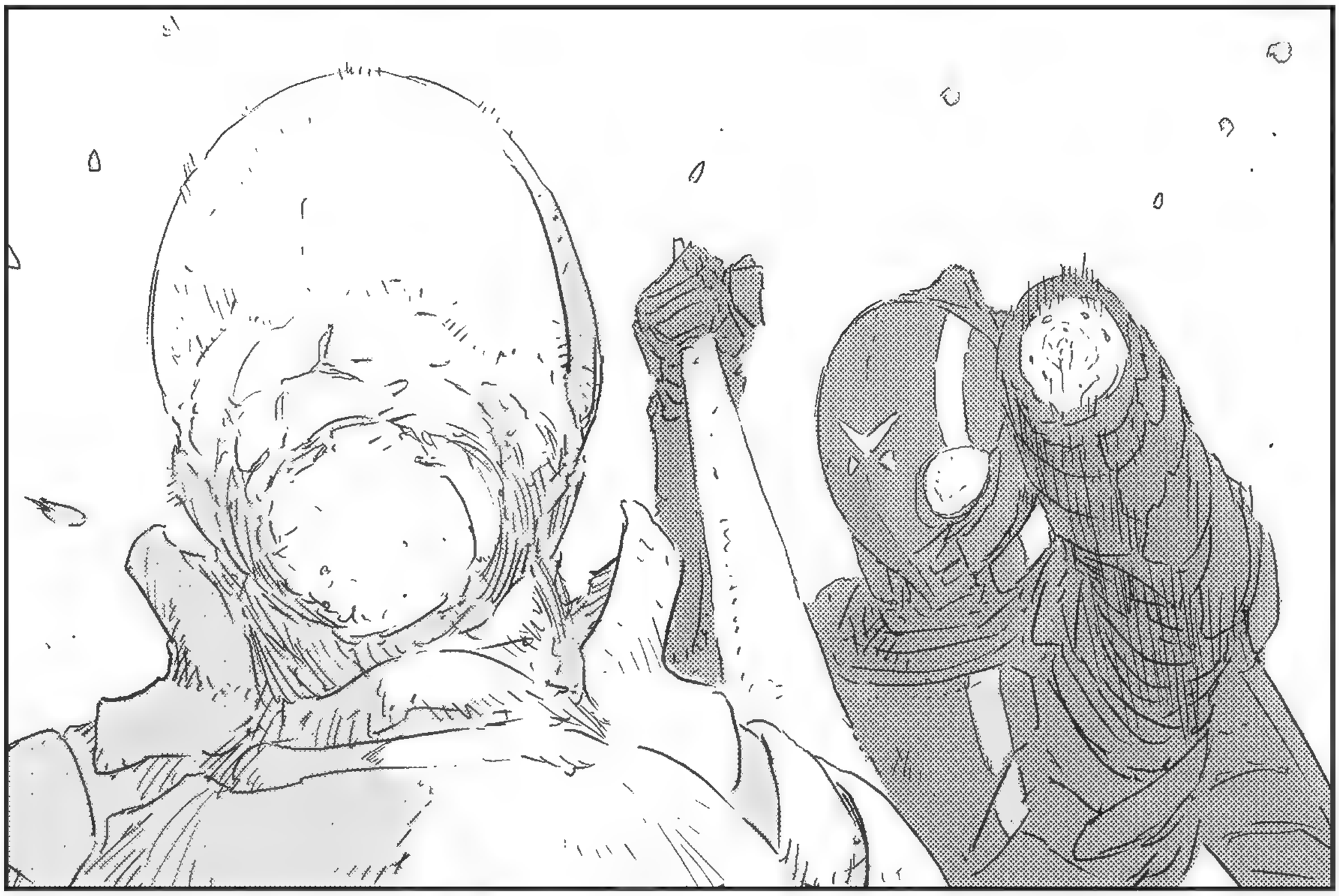
STOP RESISTING AND SUBMIT TO ME!

KASHUNK

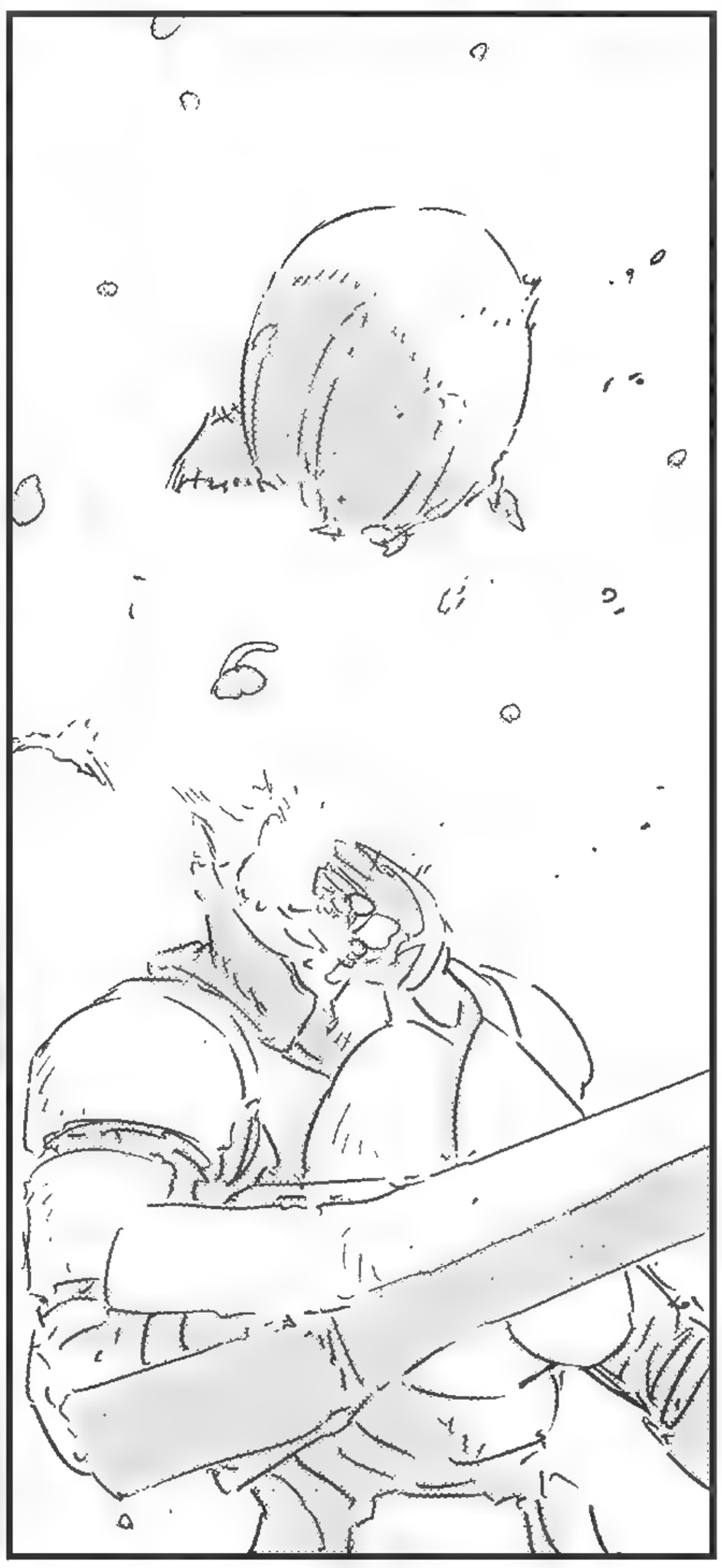


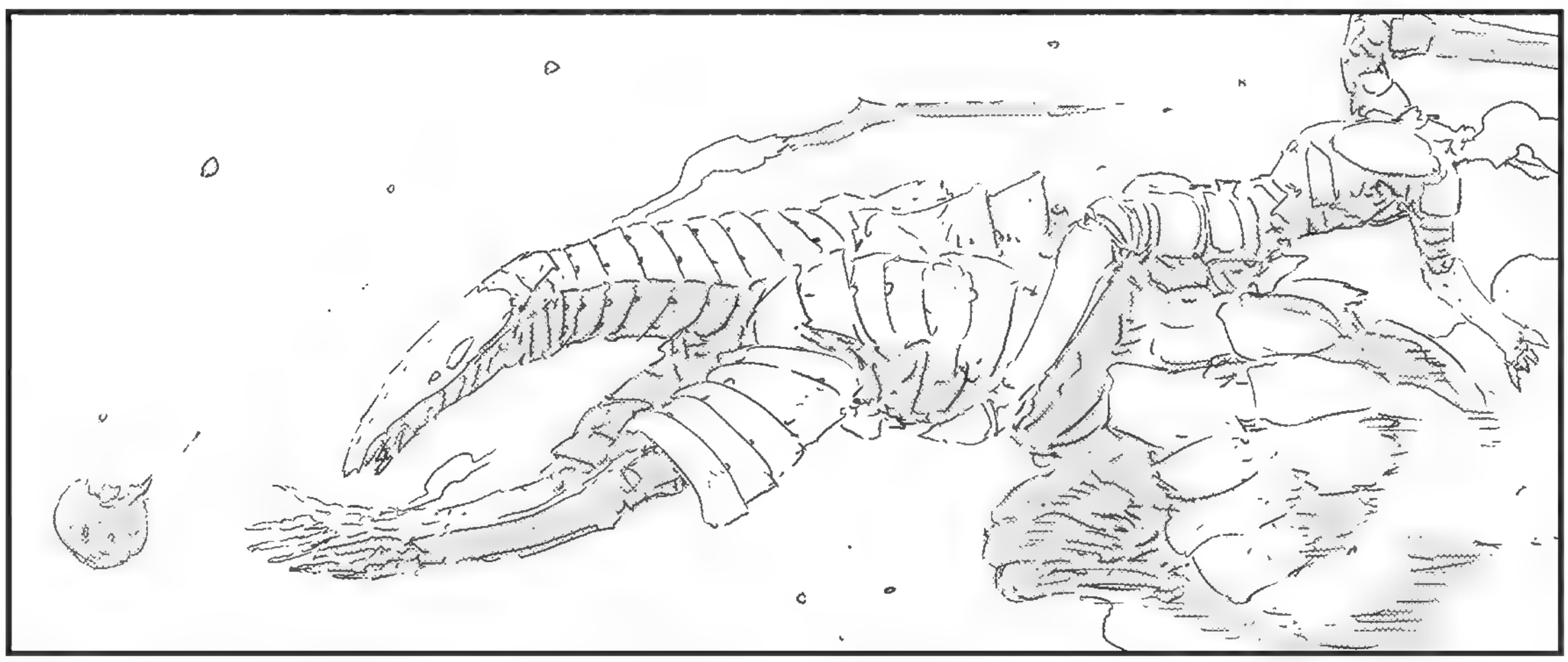



BLAM

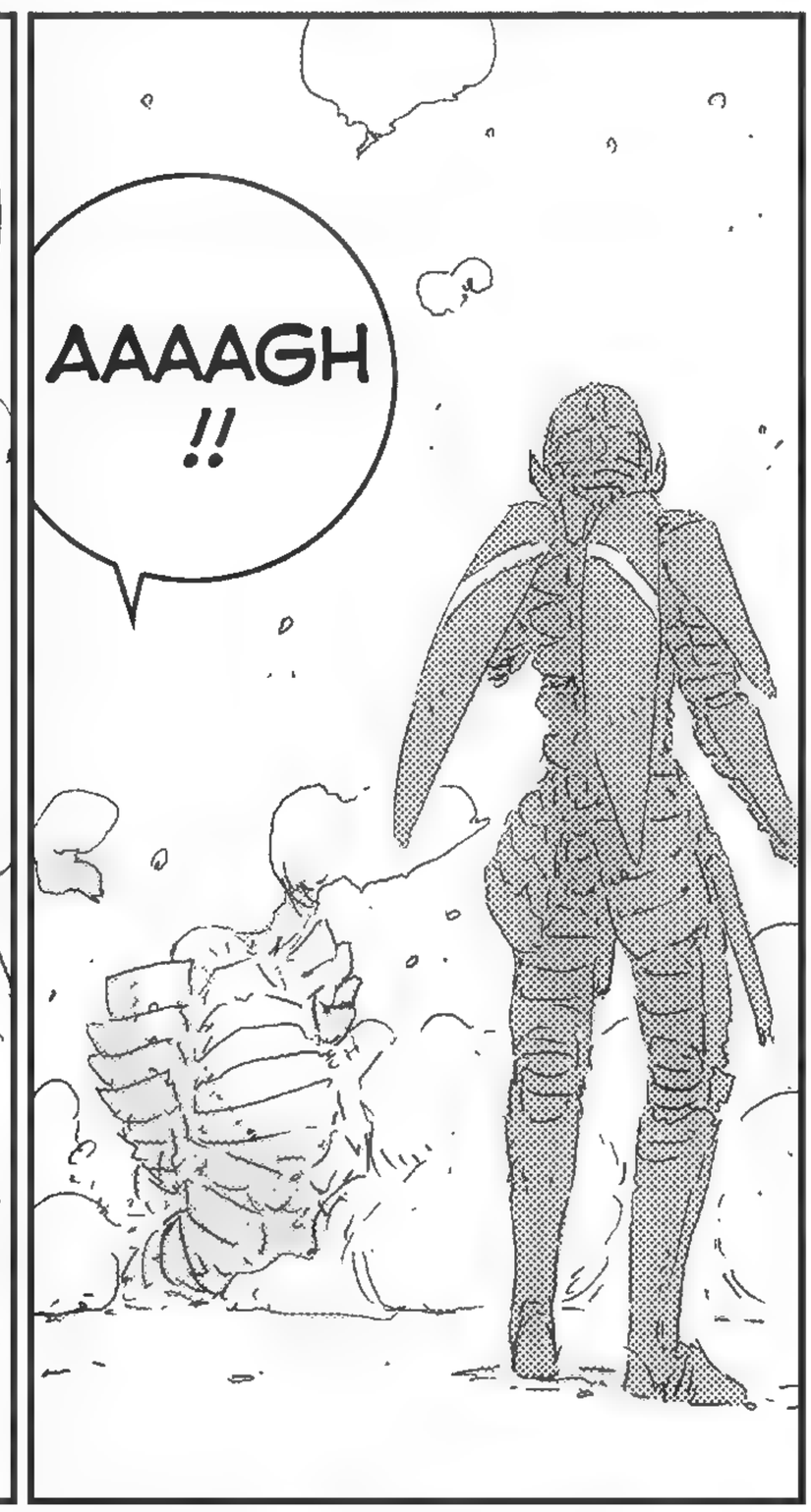


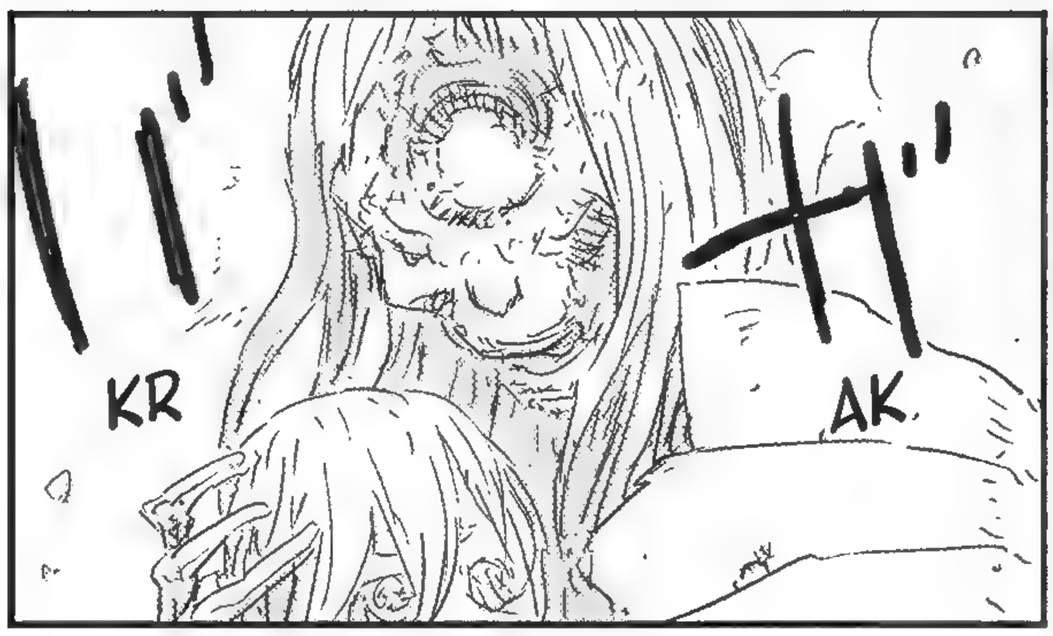
KREEEEEN



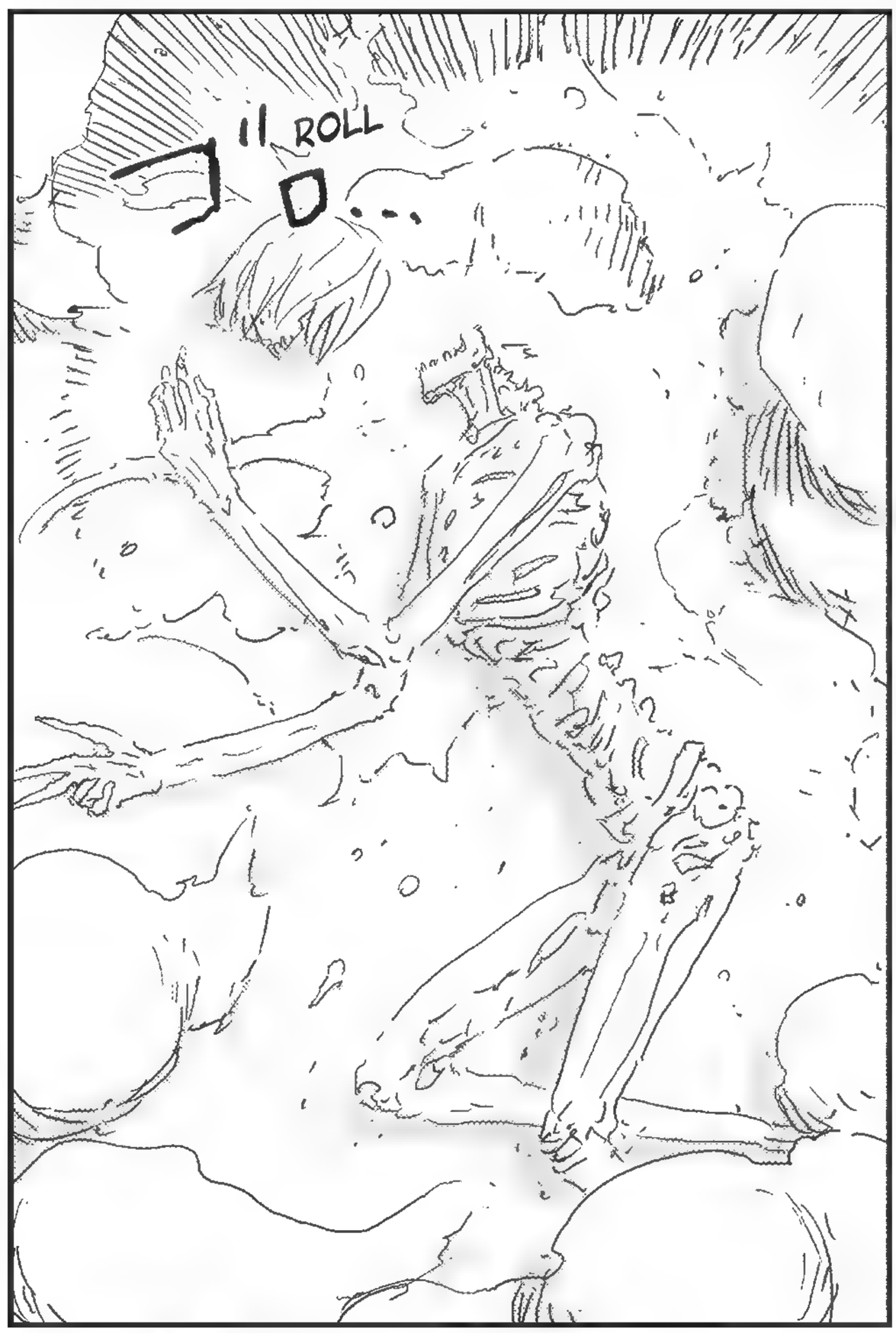


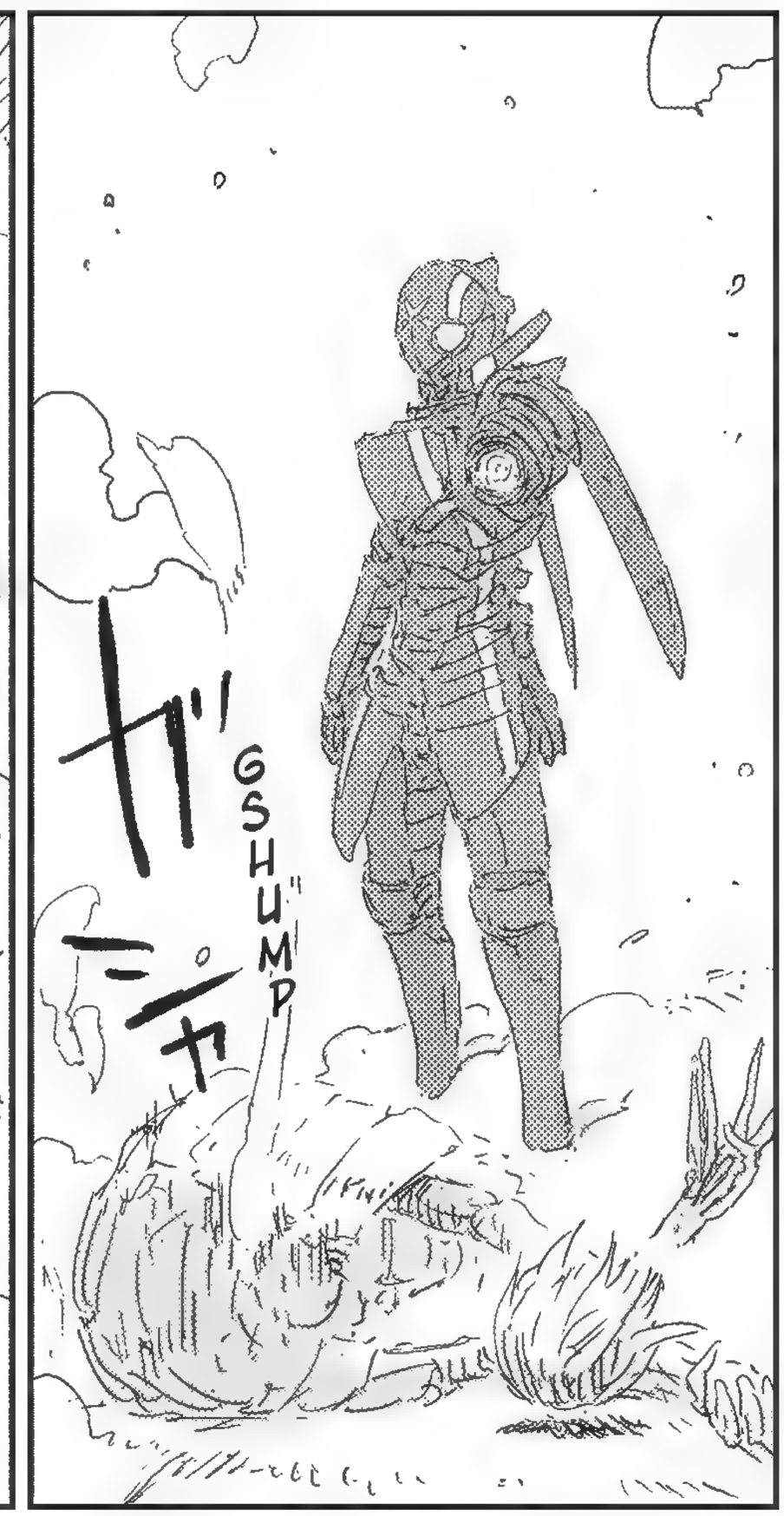
AND FYUMA HAD TRIED TO RESOLVE THINGS BY *TALKING* WITH YOU!!
YOU'RE SO HORRIBLE!

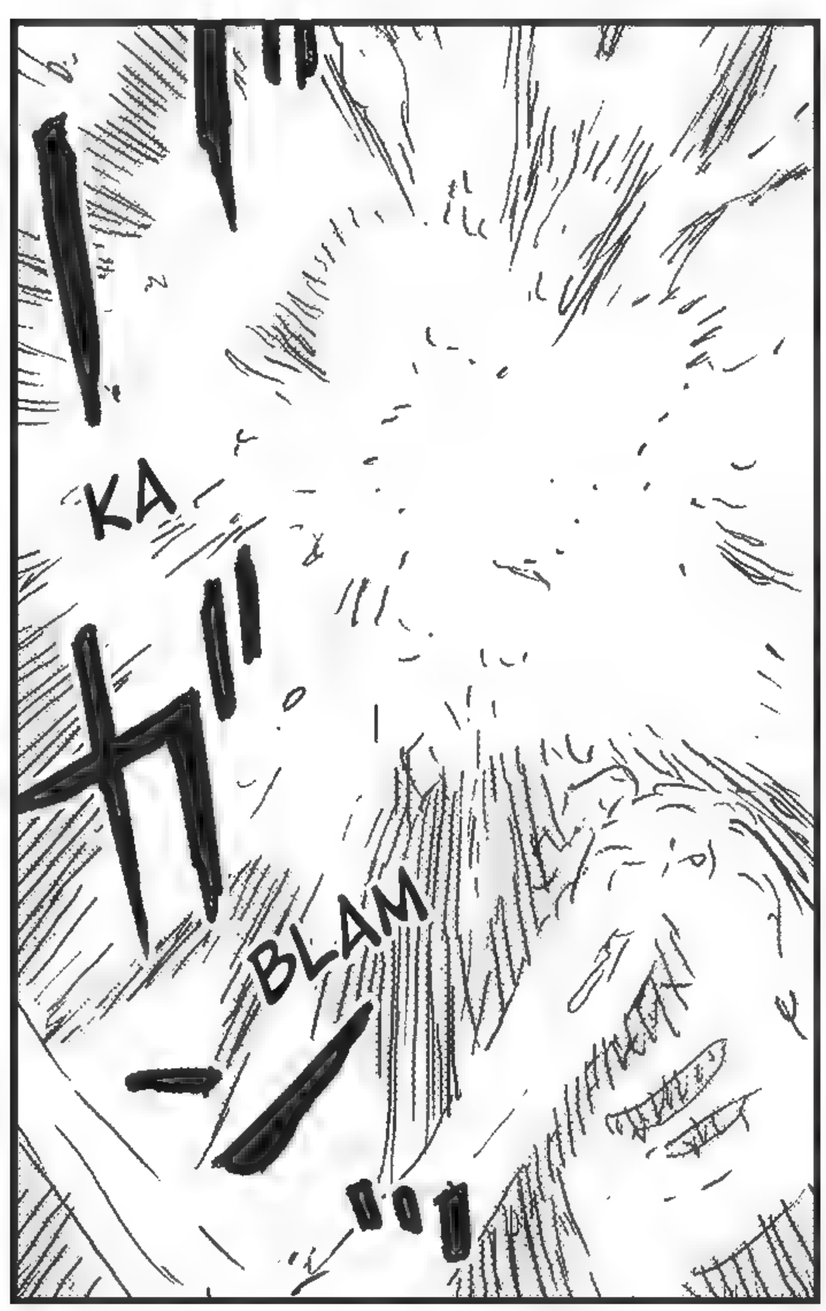

AAAAGH !!


KR
AK

BLAM

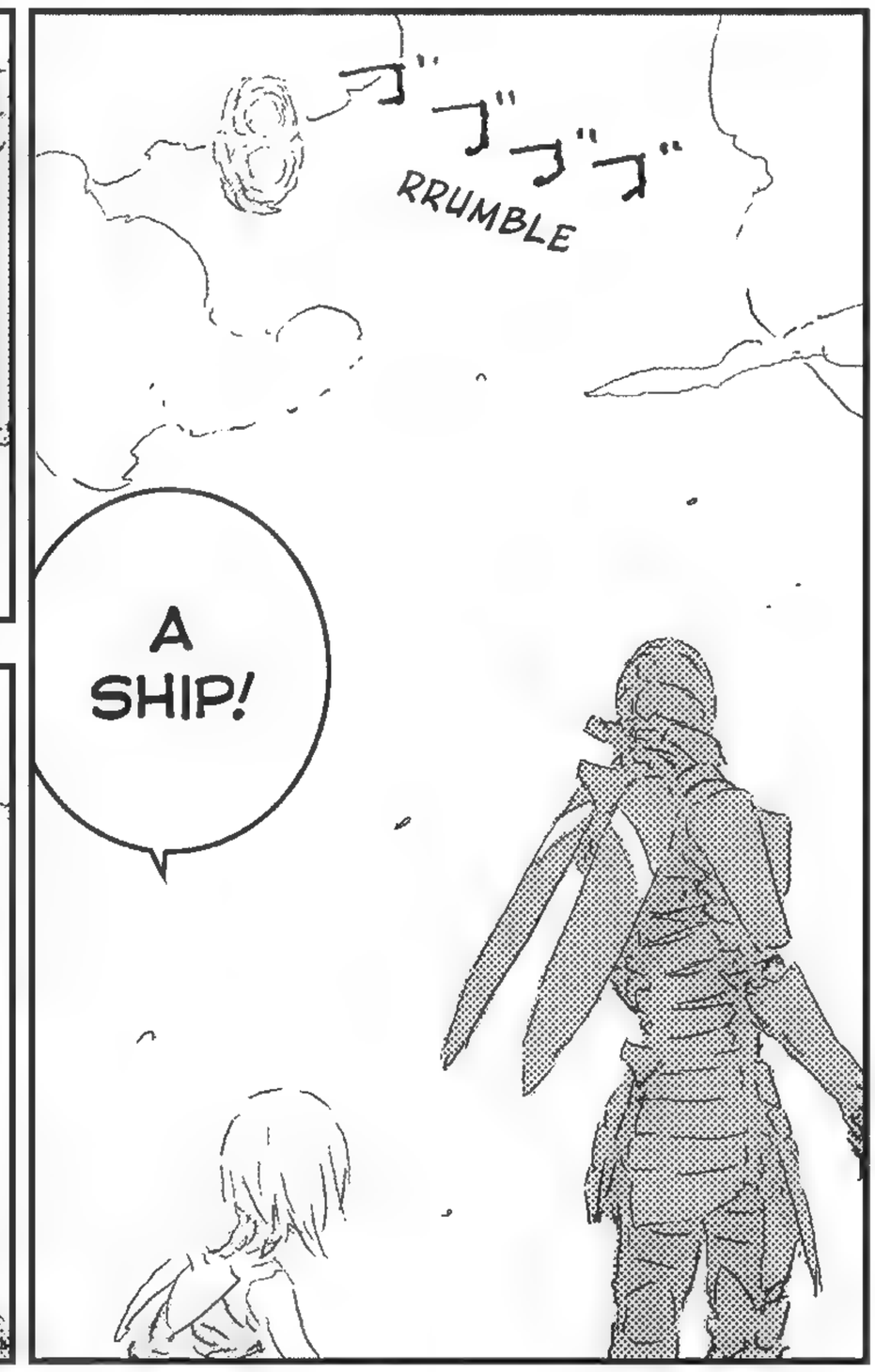

ROLL


GSHUMP


KA
BLAM

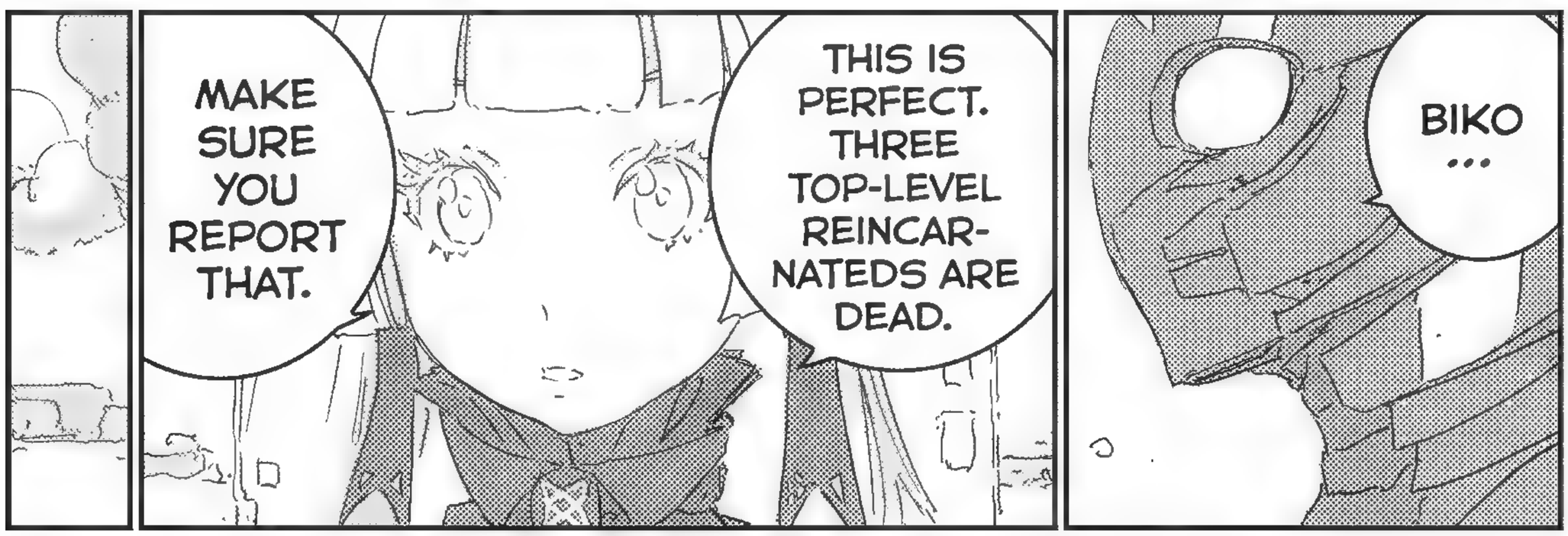
A...
I...
ROLL

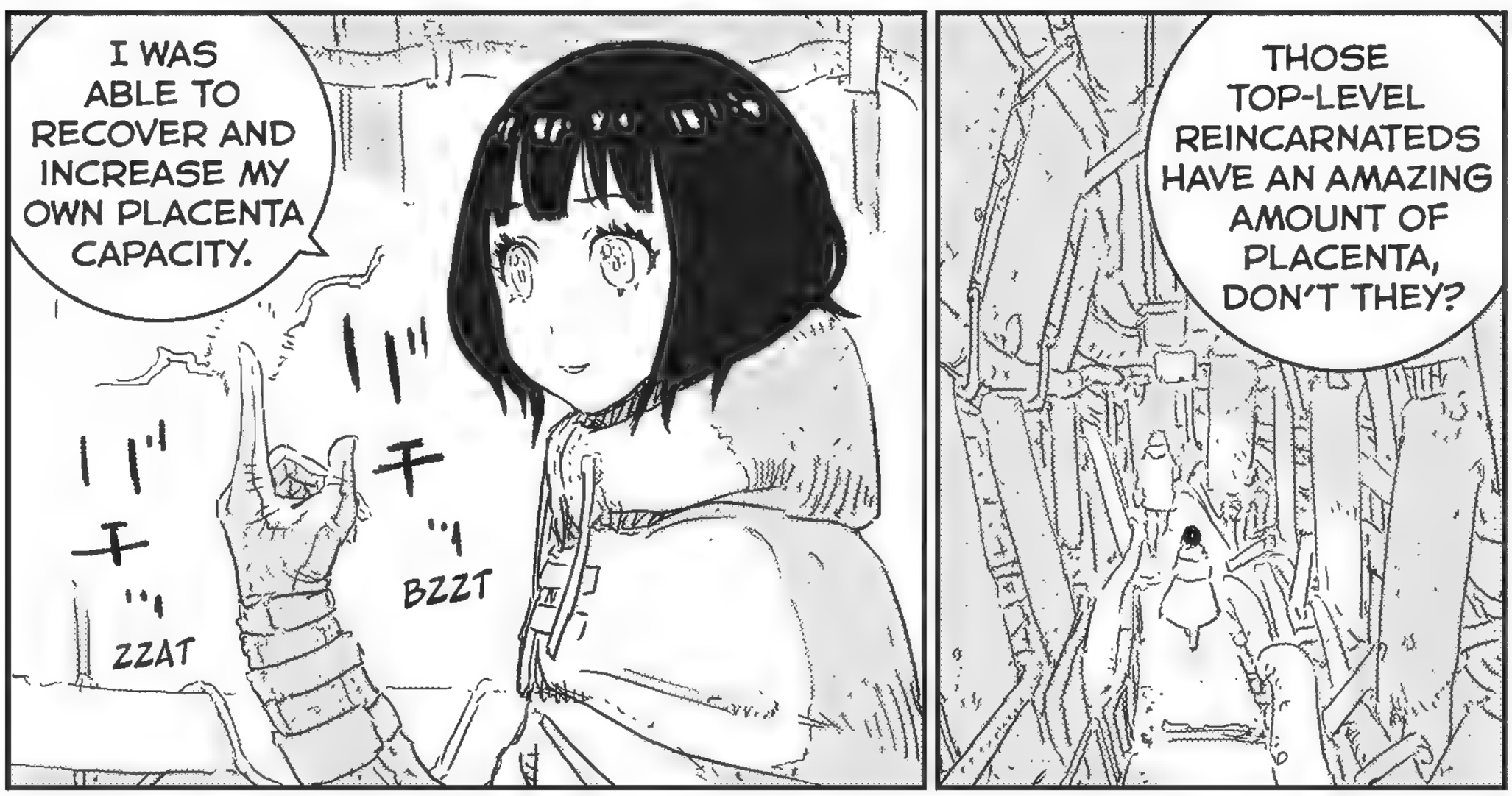
ズッズッ

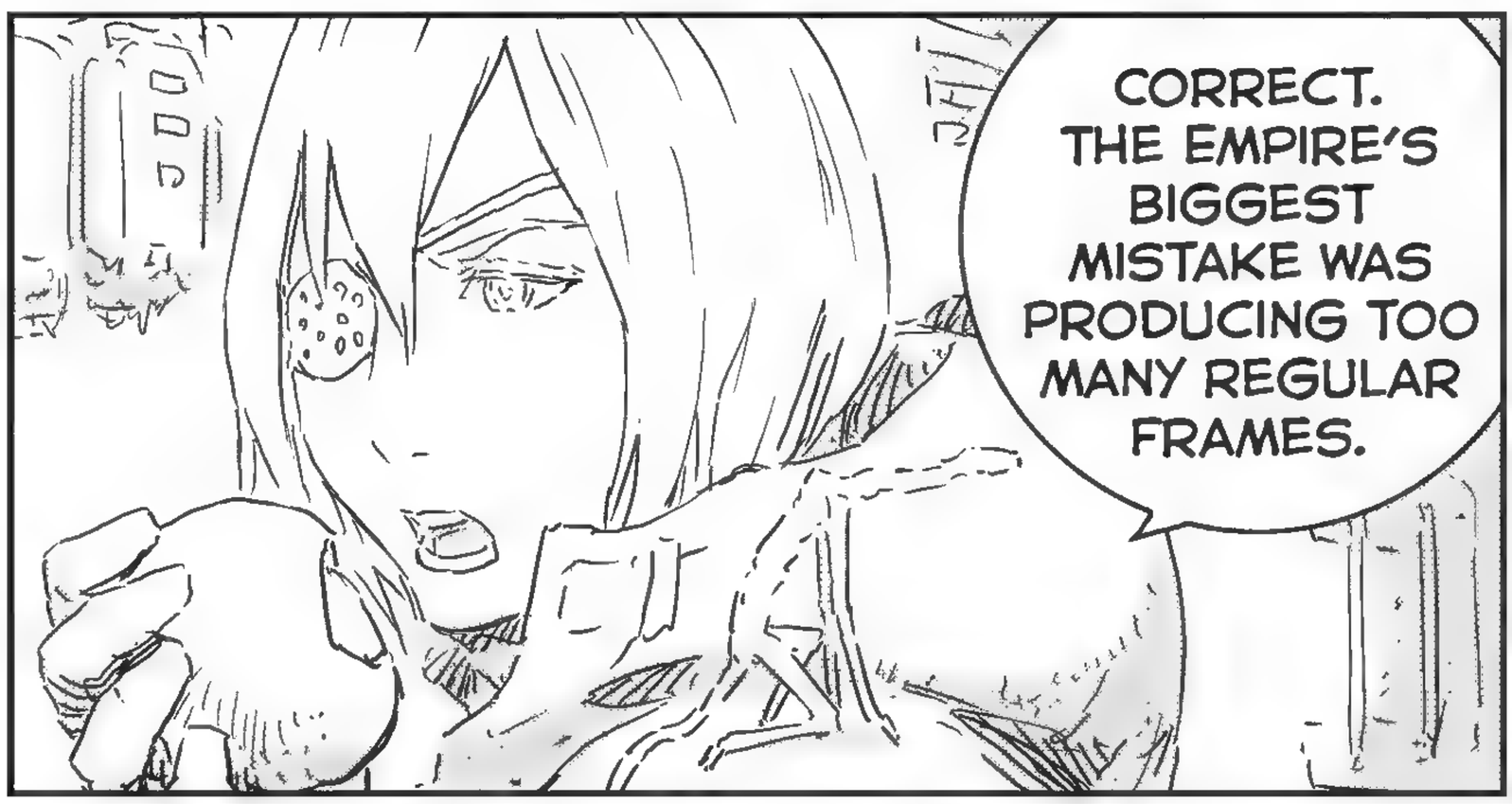


I SWEAR I WILL AVENGE LORD YIYU!

REMEMBER THAT!

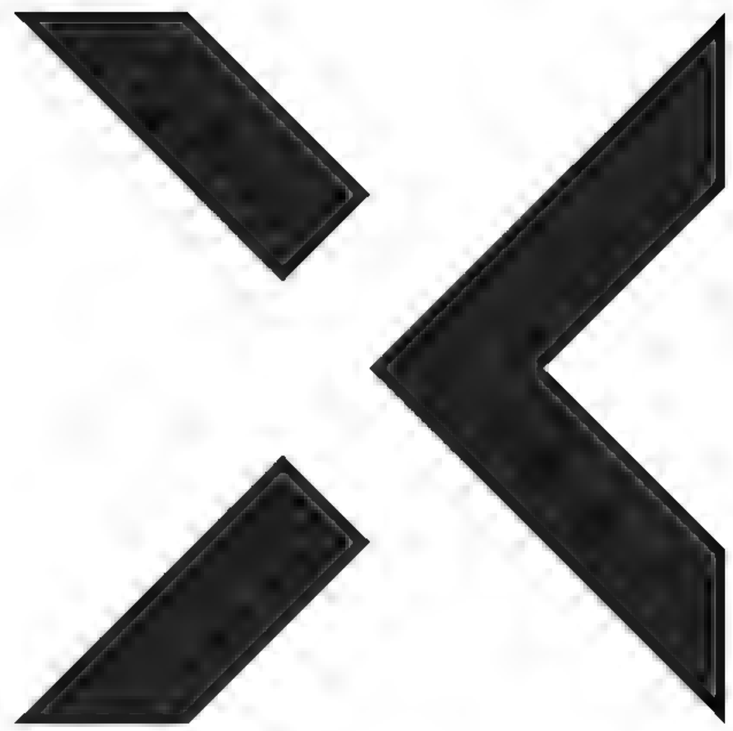




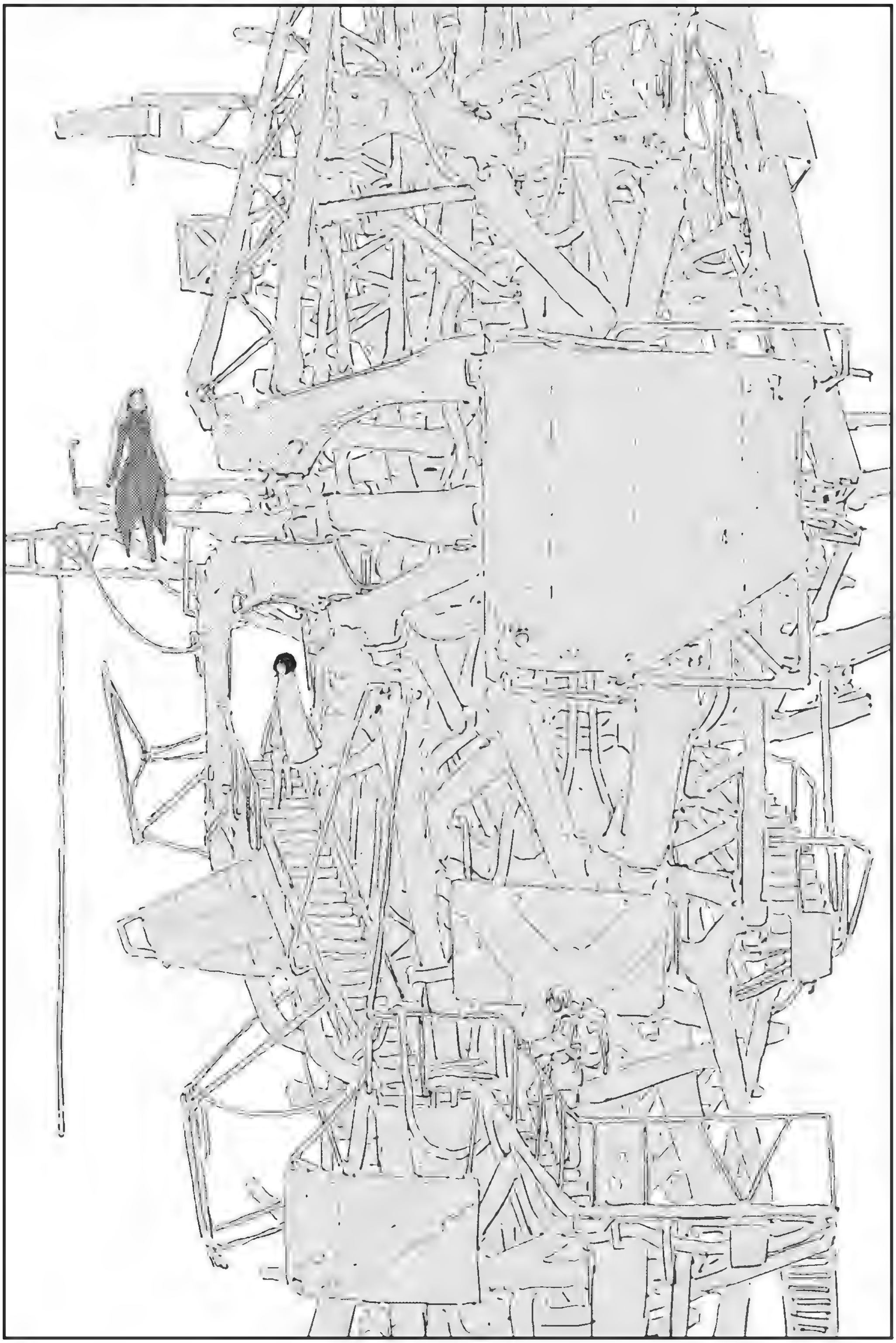


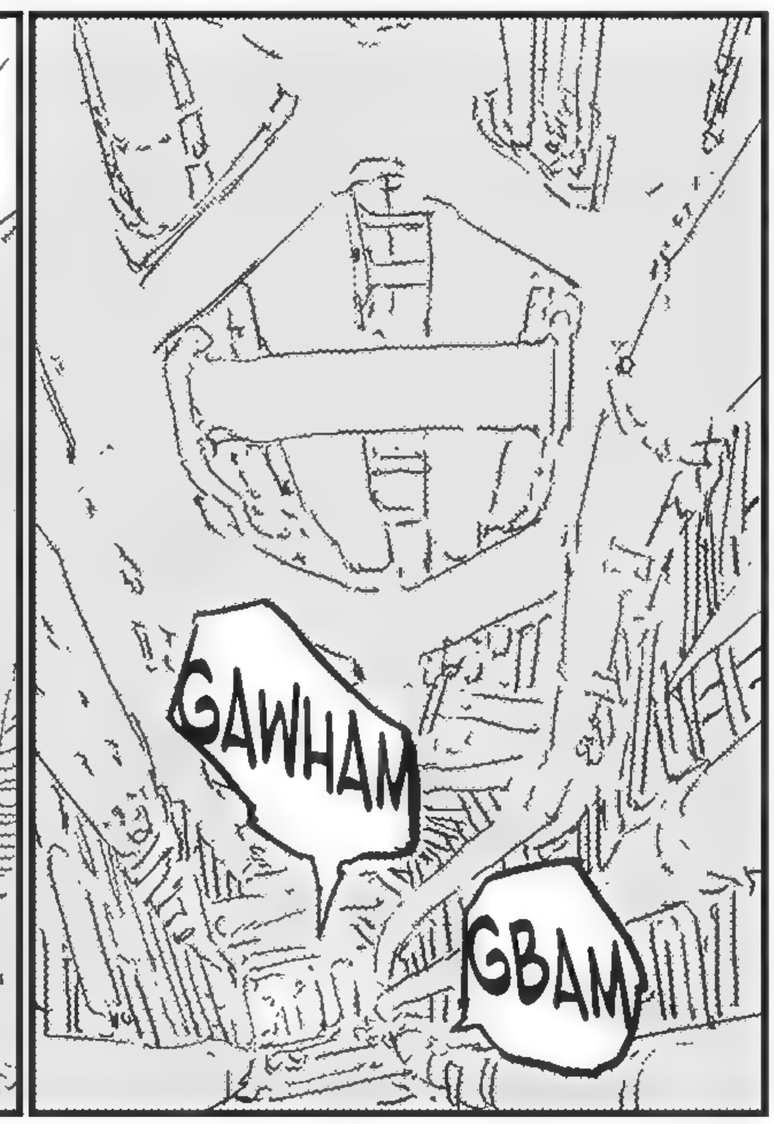
CHAPTER 10 END

APOSIMZ



CHAPTER 11





BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
BLAMBLAMBLAM
ZZZTT

FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THIS TYPE.

AS EXPECTED, LOTS MORE AGGRESSIVE AUTOMATONS NOW THAT WE'RE 100 KILOMETERS UNDERGROUND.

BZZT バチ バチ ZZT

SPLAT

IT'S ALL SUCH FINE-QUALITY STUFF, I WISH WE COULD TAKE EVERY-THING WITH US.

A MELTING APPARATUS AND A MEASURE-MENT CRYSTAL ...

THEIR MESENTERY IS GOOD QUALITY.

SHRIP RIP

THE KUDATSUNAGI WE KILLED BEFORE SUMMONED IT.

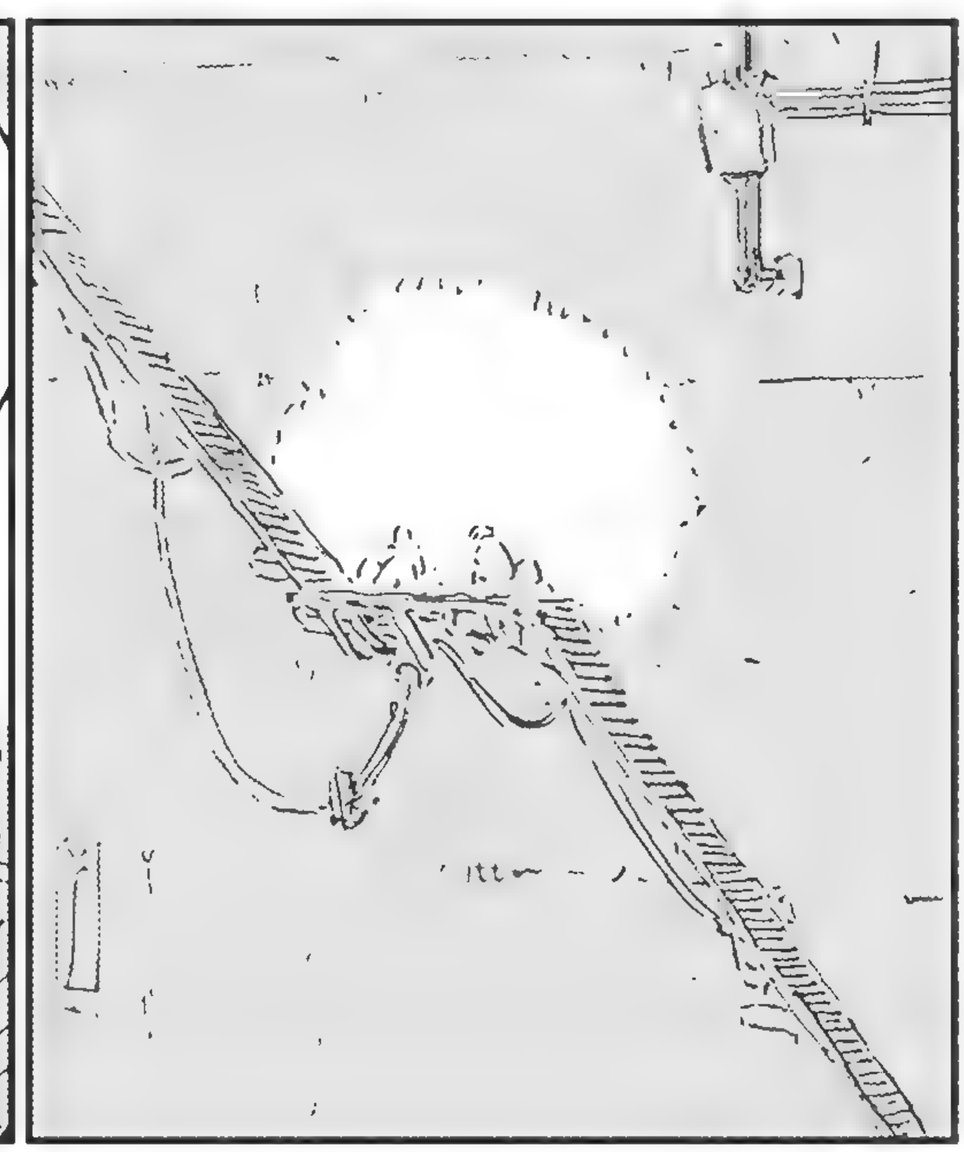
IT'S AN OHERA-HAGI.

HSSSHH

THE WAY AHEAD IS STILL LONG.

PLEASE DON'T LOSE TRACK OF OUR OBJECTIVE.

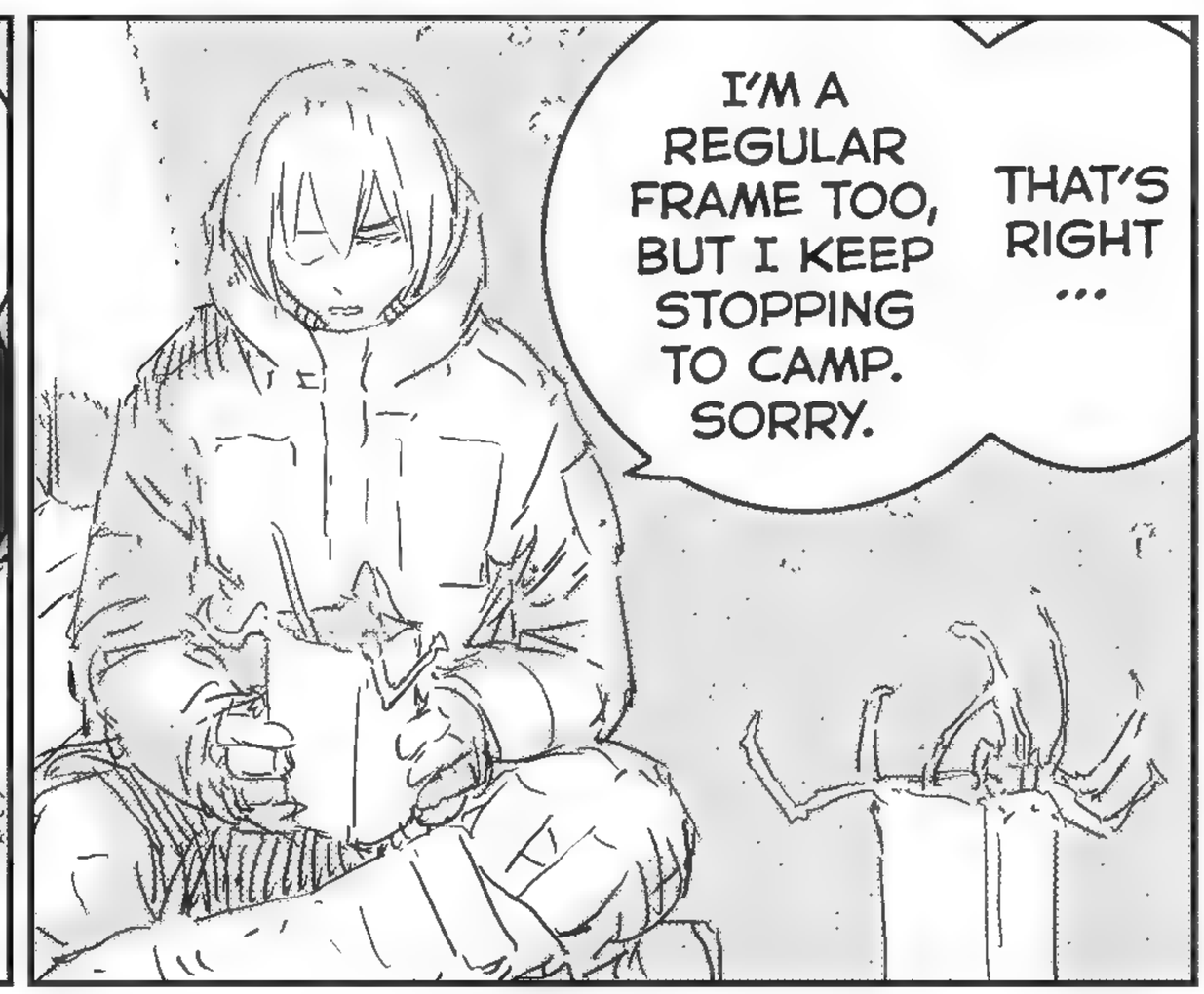
NO.
KEISHA, ARE YOU NOT GOING TO EAT ANY MORE OF THAT?



I'M FINE EVEN IF
I DON'T REPLENISH THAT OFTEN.
YES.

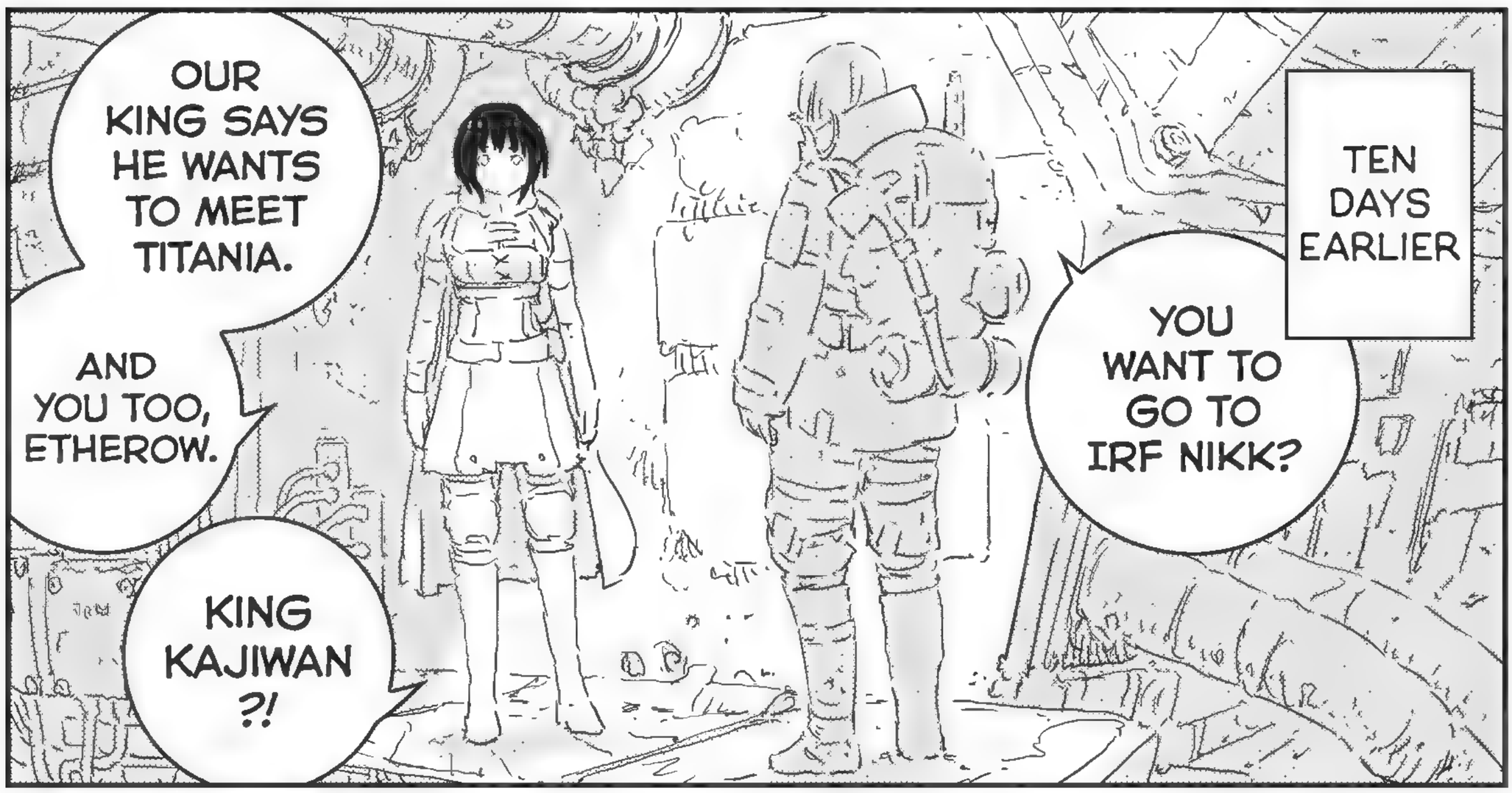
ARE YOU SURE...?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHERE'S THIS COMING FROM?


I'M A REGULAR FRAME TOO, BUT I KEEP STOPPING TO CAMP. SORRY.
THAT'S RIGHT ...

...

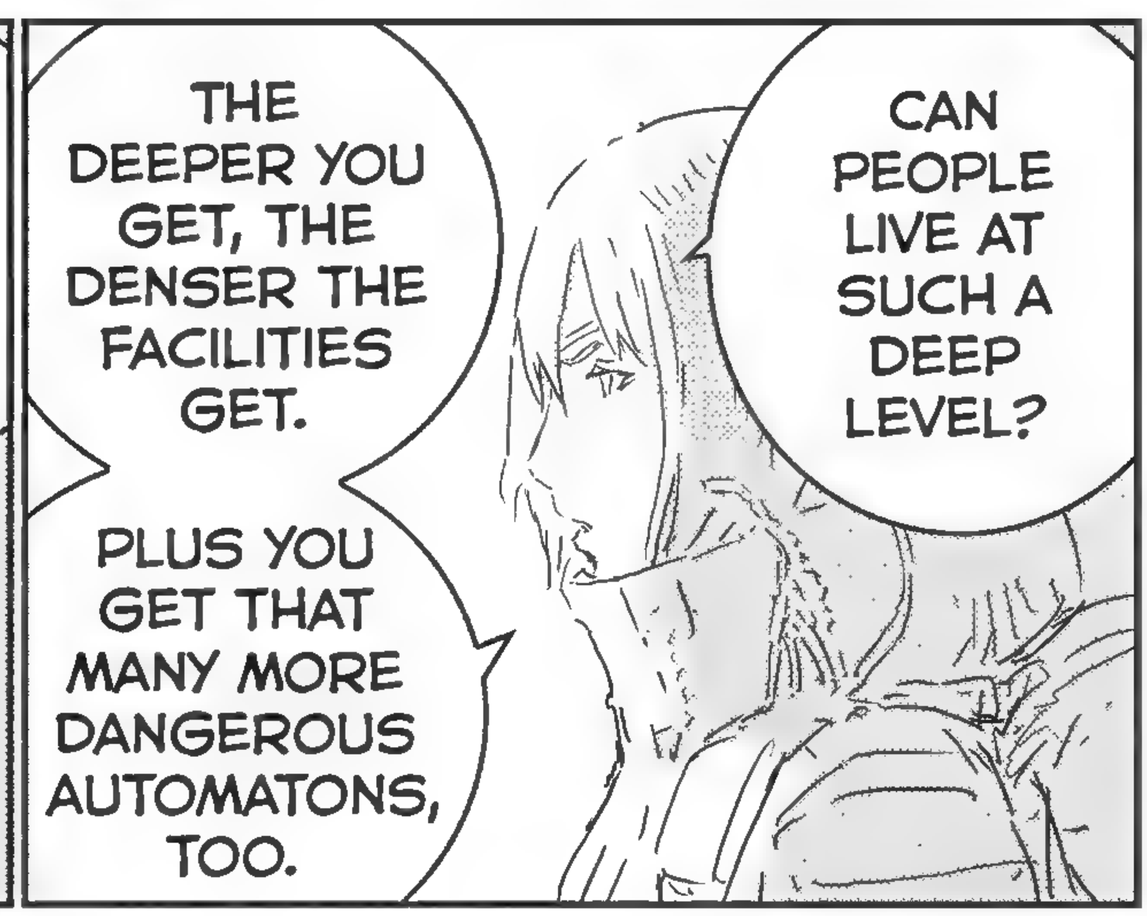
GRZZZ
ZZZ

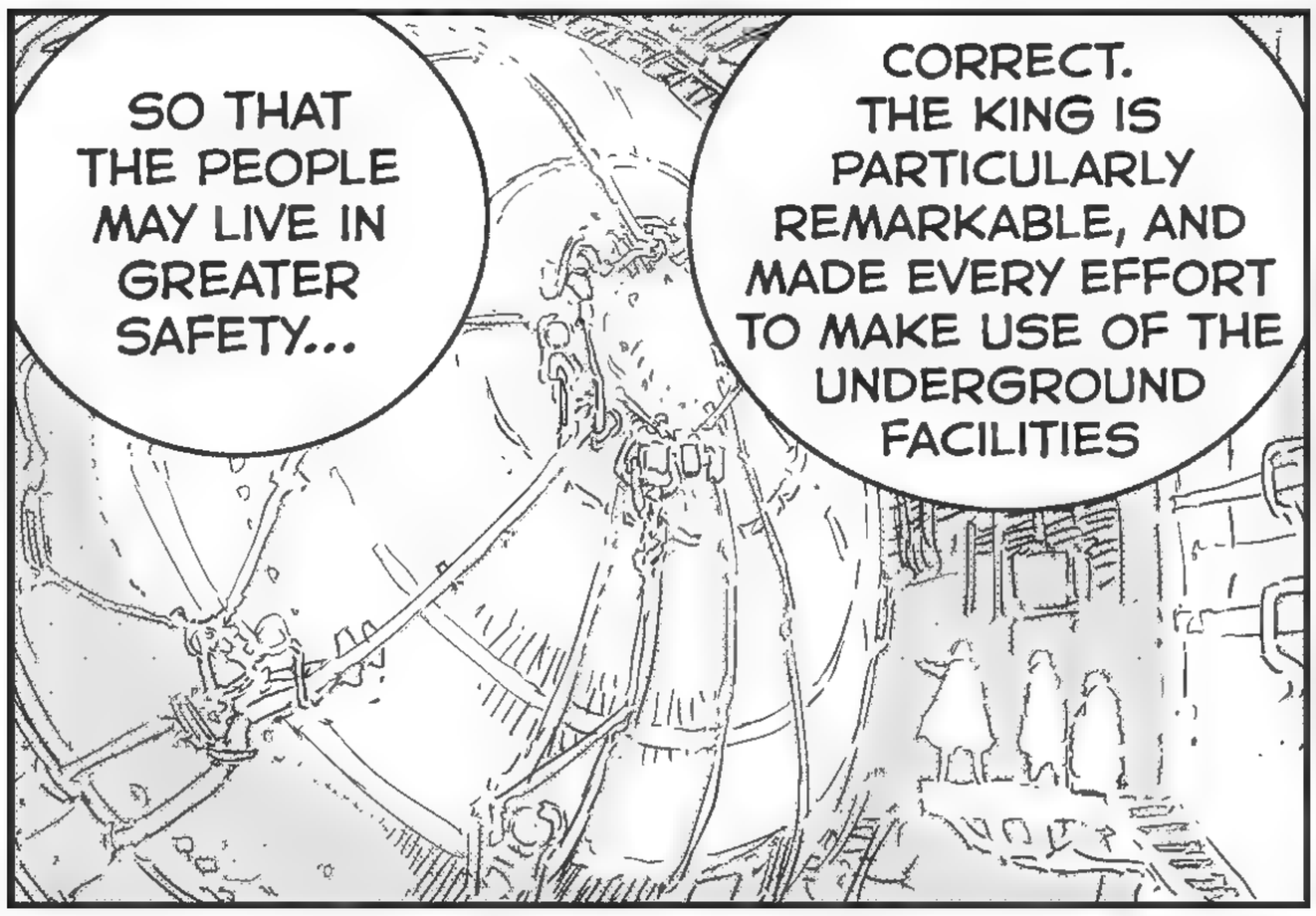

OUR KING SAYS HE WANTS TO MEET TITANIA.
AND YOU TOO, ETHEROW.
KING KAJIWAN ?!
TEN DAYS EARLIER
YOU WANT TO GO TO IRF NIKK?

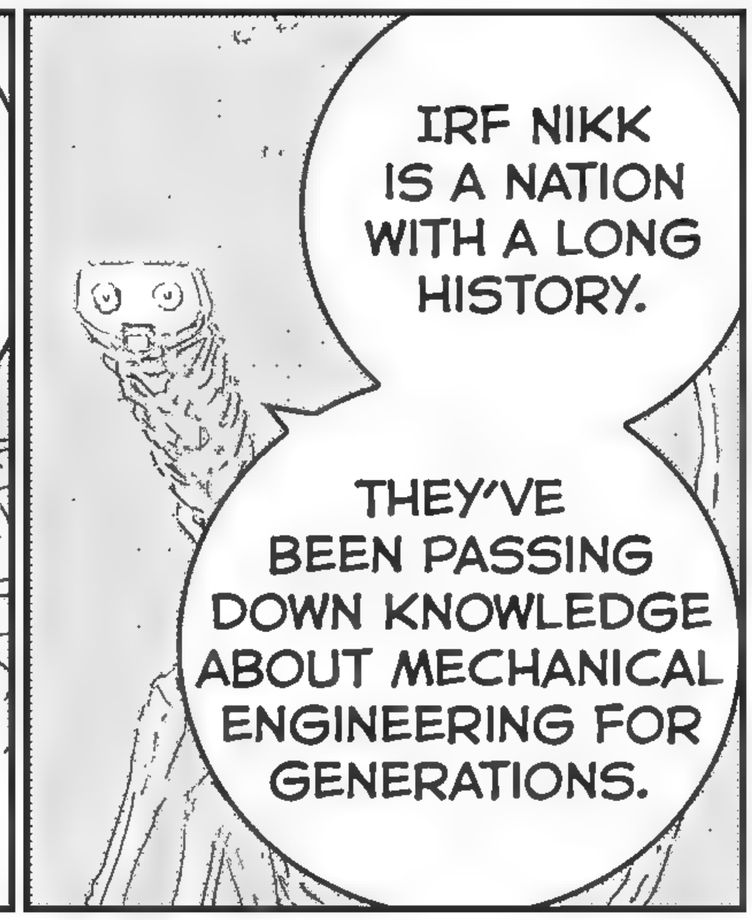
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, IT HASN'T!
THE SURVIVORS BUILT A NEW VILLAGE 200 KILOMETERS UNDERGROUND.

YOU'VE BEEN IN CONTACT?
AND I THOUGHT IRF NIKK HAD BEEN ANNIHILATED ...

THERE'S A WAY TO FOOL THE AUTO-MATONS.
I CAN'T USE IT THOUGH ...

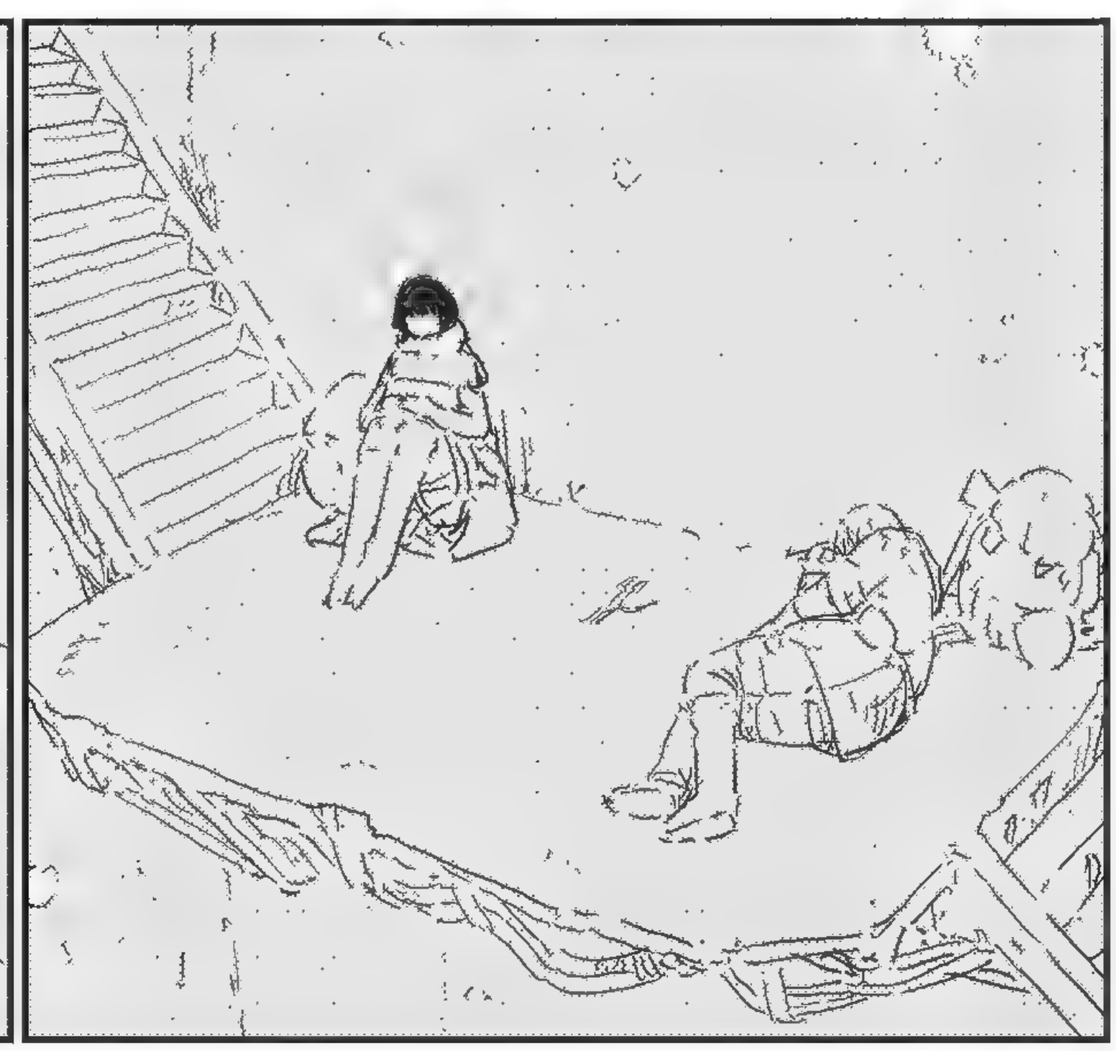

CAN PEOPLE LIVE AT SUCH A DEEP LEVEL?
THE DEEPER YOU GET, THE DENSER THE FACILITIES GET.
PLUS YOU GET THAT MANY MORE DANGEROUS AUTOMATONS, TOO.


SO THAT THE PEOPLE MAY LIVE IN GREATER SAFETY...
CORRECT. THE KING IS PARTICULARLY REMARKABLE, AND MADE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE USE OF THE UNDERGROUND FACILITIES


IRF NIKK IS A NATION WITH A LONG HISTORY.
THEY'VE BEEN PASSING DOWN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FOR GENERATIONS.

THE MORE PEOPLE ON OUR SIDE, THE BETTER. WE SHOULD GO.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, ETHEROW?

HE NOW DEVOTES HIMSELF BODY AND SOUL TO THE EXCAVATION OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES.
BUT AFTER THE EMPIRE INVADED, THE KING CHANGED.



CAN YOU SEE US?
WE'VE REACHED THE PLACE YOU SAID.
OKAY.
WWWNN
IT'S OKAY. THEY SEEM TO BE ALL RIGHT.

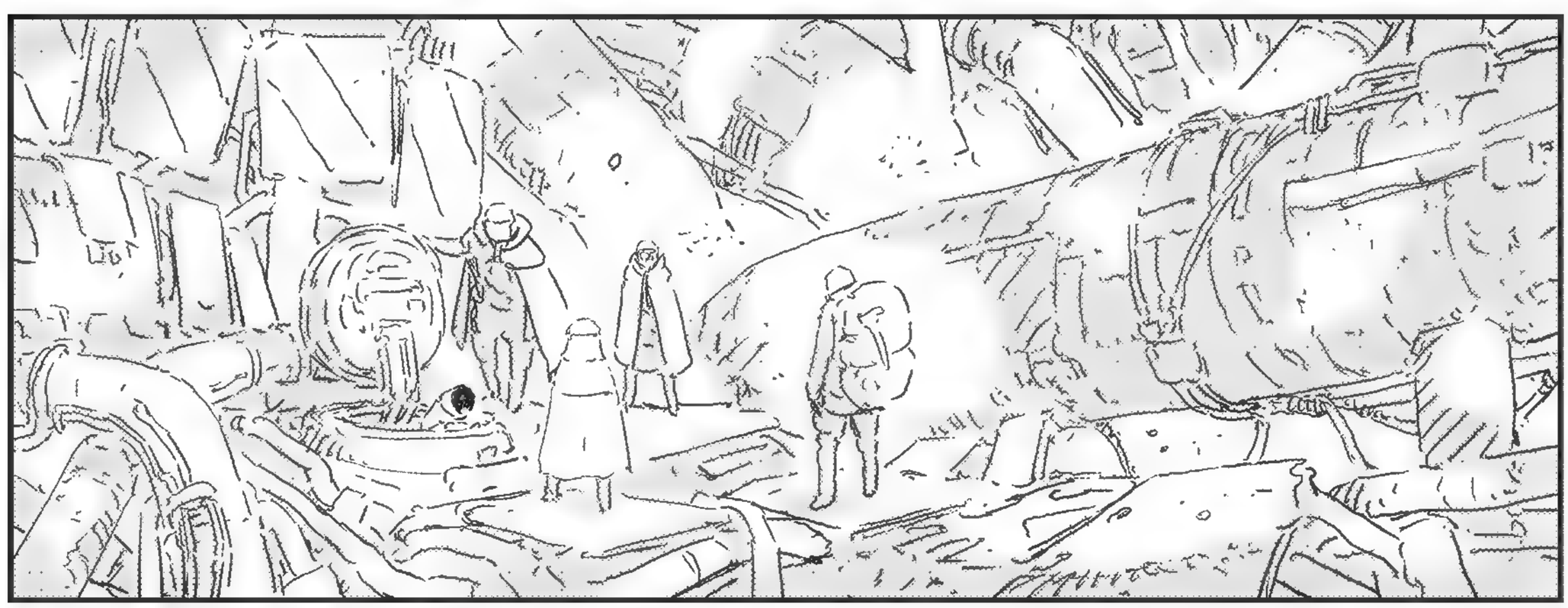
REGULAR FRAMES DON'T NEED OXYGEN!
YOU FOOL.
HEY! YOU'RE NOT WEARING YOUR MASK?!

WE HAVE TO BE CAU-TIOUS.
SORRY FOR POINTING OUR GUNS AT YOU. WE CAN'T RISK OUR LOCATION BEING DISCOVERED BY THE EMPIRE.
KEISHA!

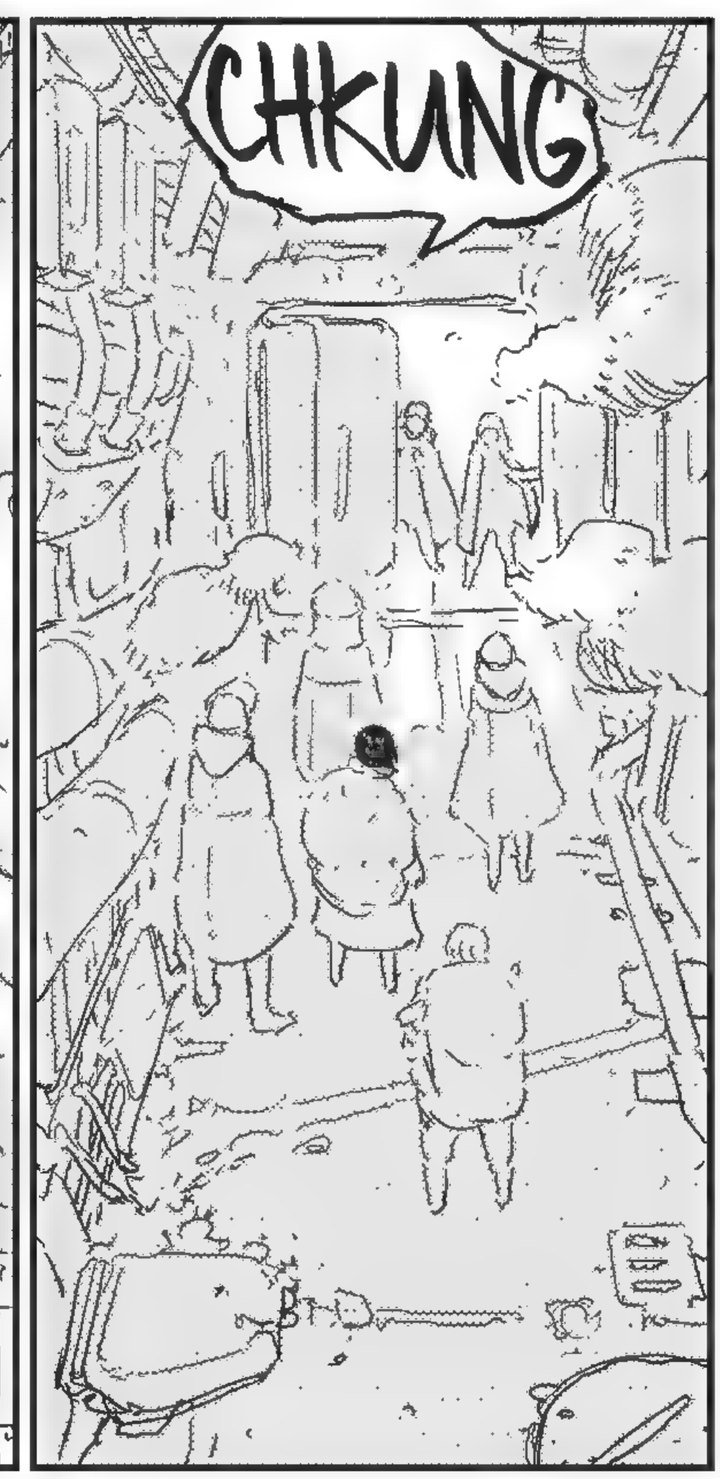
GUH! IT'S SO HEAVY!
THUMP
I TOLD YOU...

NO, NO! LET ME.
I'M FINE.
THAT'S A HUGE BAG. LET ME CARRY IT FOR YOU.

COME ON. LET'S GO.
THE VILLAGE IS ABOUT HALF A DAY'S TRAVEL FROM HERE.



CHOOM
KEISHA!
YOU'RE BACK!


CHKUNG

KSHANK
KSHANK
HOW GOOD OF YOU TO COME.

HAVE YOU ALL BEEN OKAY, TOO?
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...
YAY !
WHUMP
HERE'S SOME SOUVE-NIRS.

I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD GET TO MEET YOU, EMISSARY FROM THE CORE, LADY TITANIA.

SHUNK

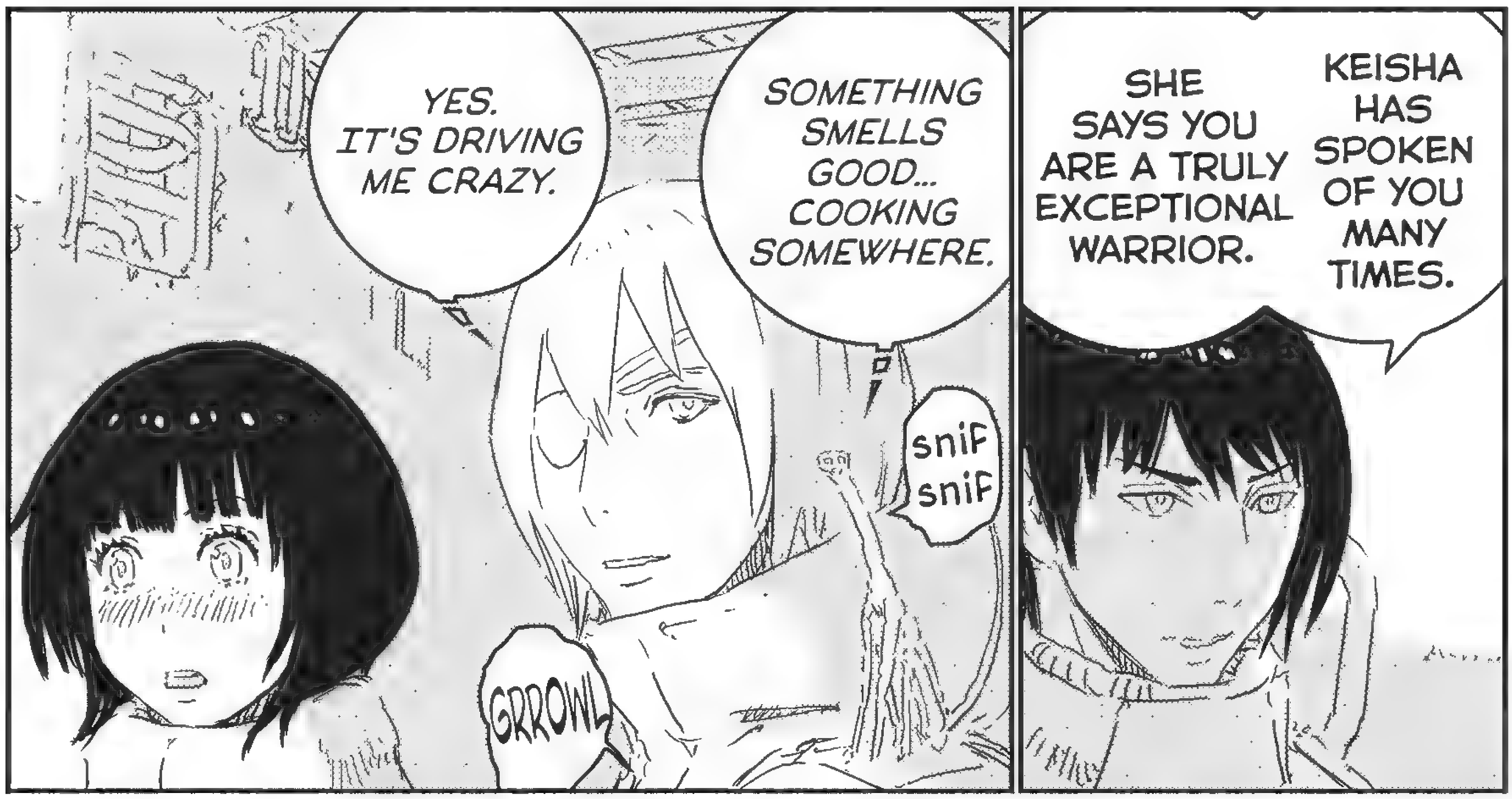
IT IS A PLEASURE. THIS IS A NICE VILLAGE.

I AM KAJIWAN OF IRF NIKK.

AND YOU MUST BE ETHEROW.

I APPRECI-ATE IT.

KEISHA. YOU'VE DONE WELL.


YES. IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY.
SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD... COOKING SOMEWHERE.
sniF sniF
GRROWL
SHE SAYS YOU ARE A TRULY EXCEPTIONAL WARRIOR.
KEISHA HAS SPOKEN OF YOU MANY TIMES.

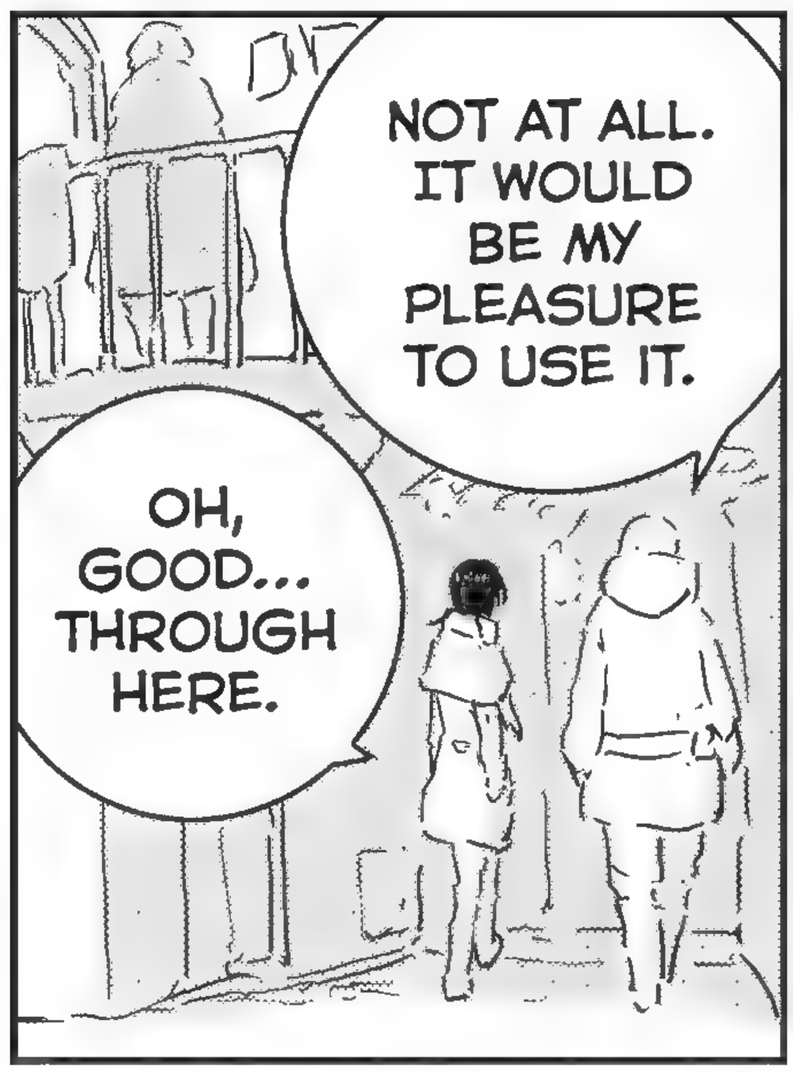
I APOLOGIZE... IF YOU WOULD EXCUSE ME FOR A BIT.
HAAH... HAAH...

KING KAJIWAN! YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN...

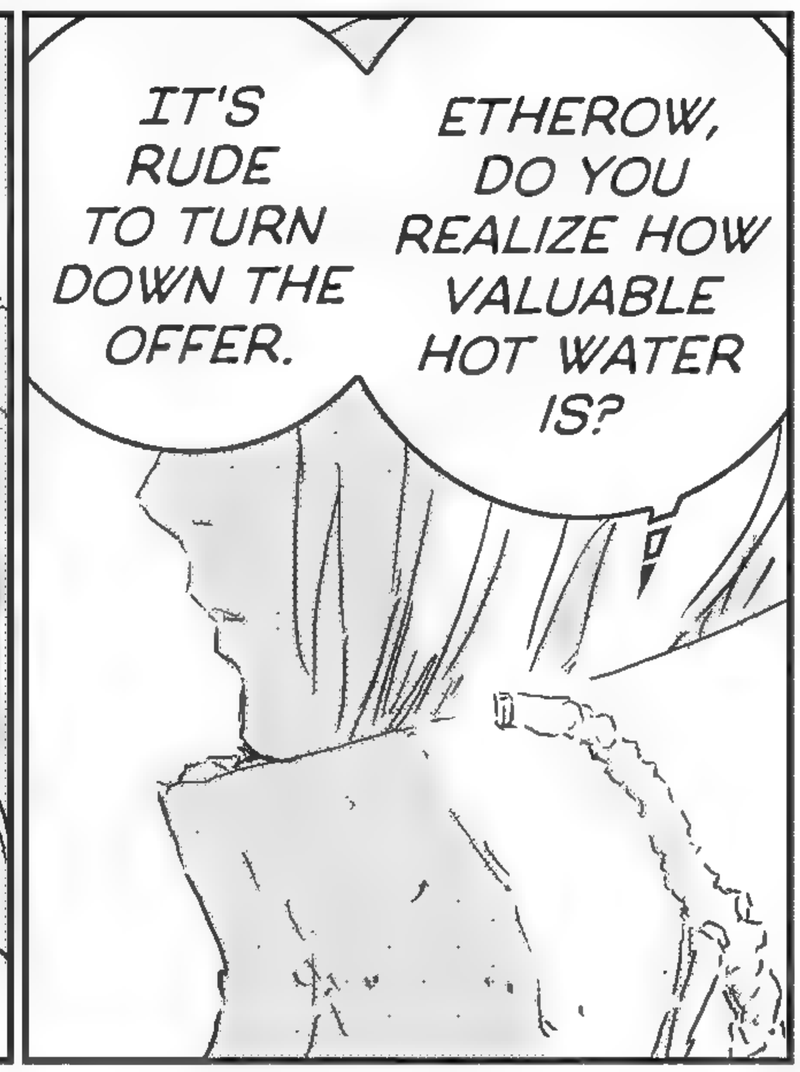
SLUMP
!!

THANK YOU, THOUGH.
MY BODY DOESN'T NEED WARMING UP.
THERE'S A BATHROOM READY FOR YOU.
UM... THIS WAY, PLEASE.

KSHUNK
KSHUNK


NOT AT ALL. IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE TO USE IT.
OH, GOOD... THROUGH HERE.

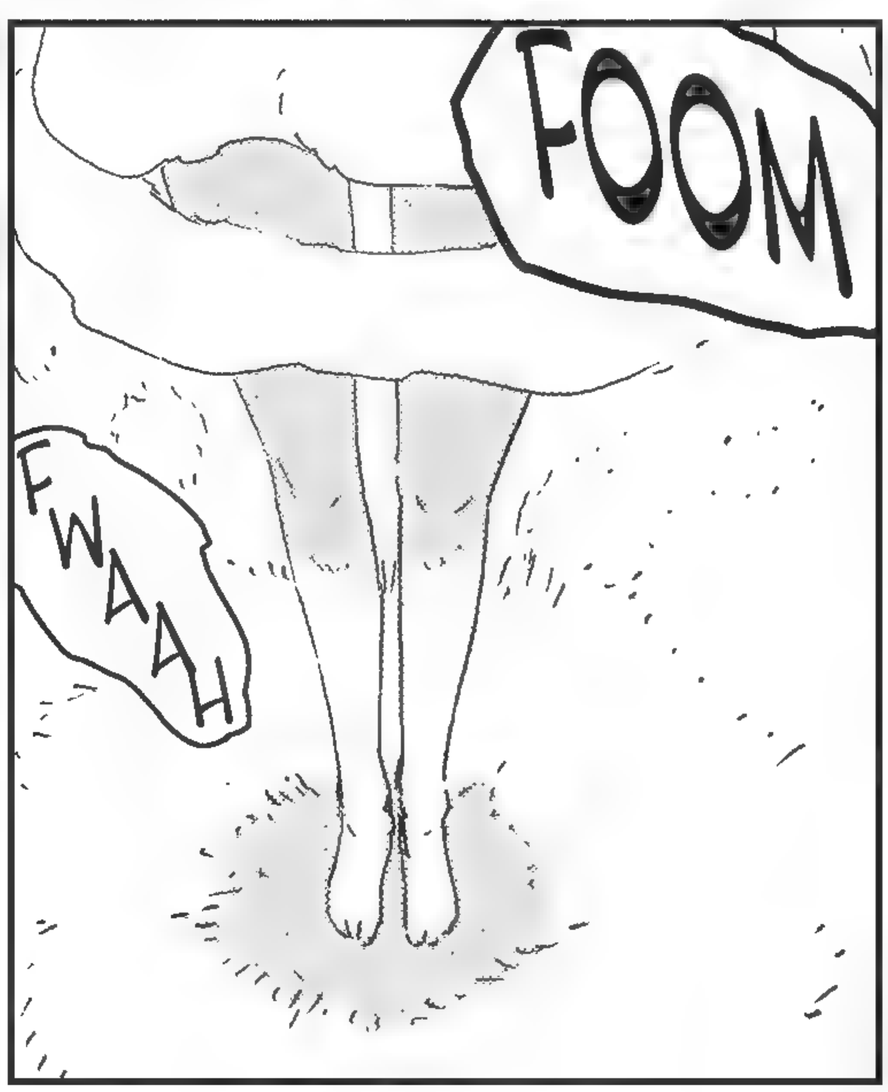
WHAT...? DO YOU DISLIKE HOT WATER?


IT'S RUDE TO TURN DOWN THE OFFER.
ETHEROW, DO YOU REALIZE HOW VALUABLE HOT WATER IS?

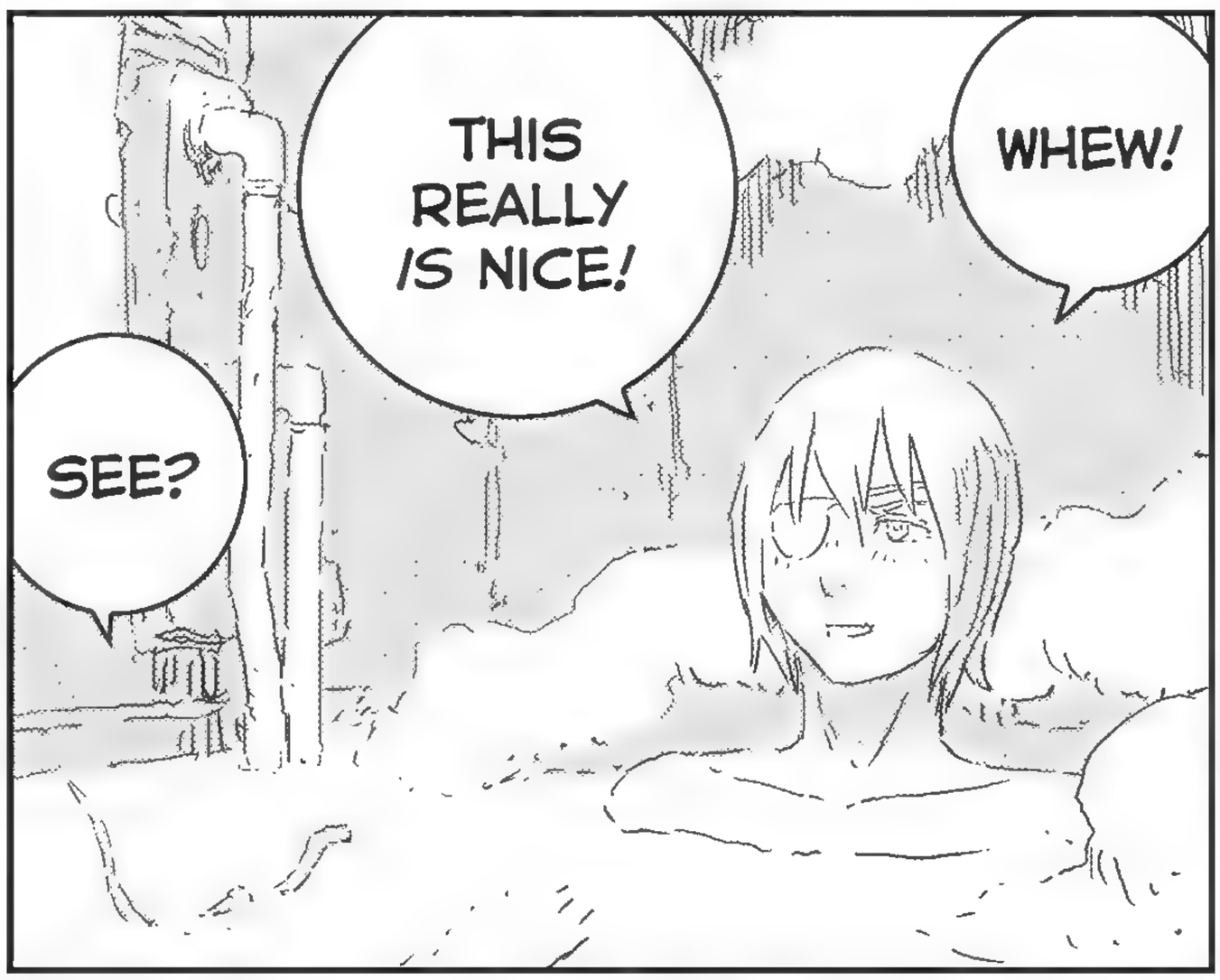
IT'S DIFFICULT TO CREATE ANYTHING WITH IT OTHER THAN THE FIRST FORM I MADE IT LEARN.
THESE AREN'T CLOTHES. THEY'RE PLACENTA.

KEISHA, CHANGE OUT OF THOSE CLOTHES.
THEY'RE DIRTY, AND THEY SMELL AWFUL.

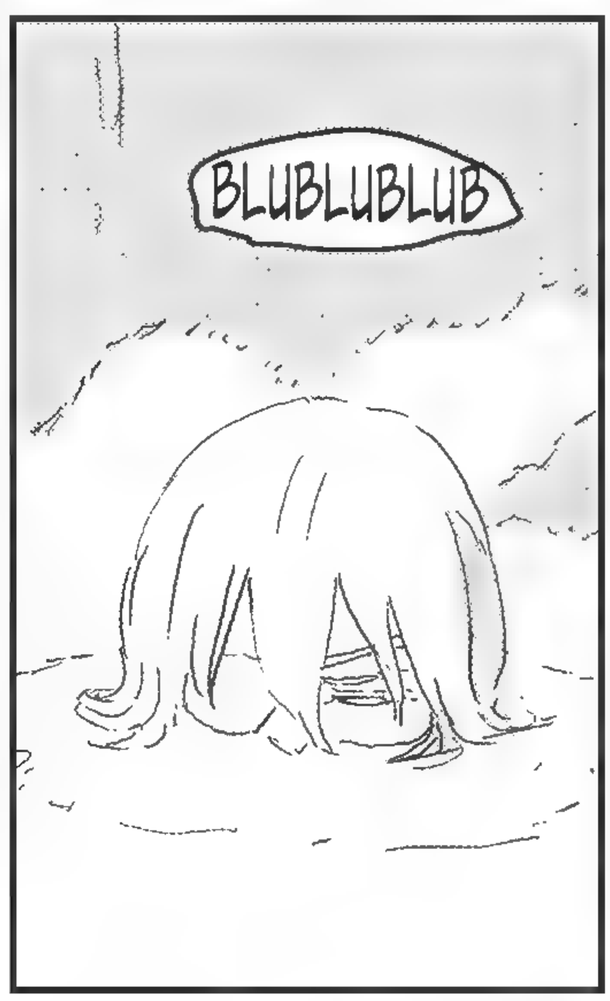
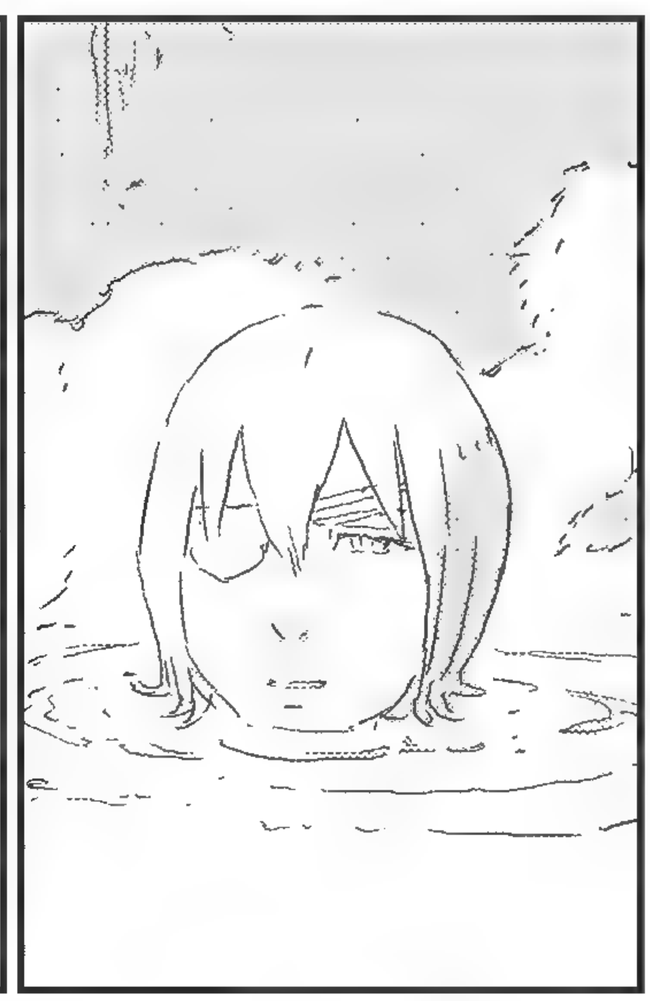
KOFF! KOFF!
SO MUCH DUST!!


FOOM
FWAAH

GET RID OF THOSE PLACENTA CLOTHES.
WHY DON'T YOU WEAR REAL CLOTHES, THEN?
...


SEE?
THIS REALLY IS NICE!
WHEW!

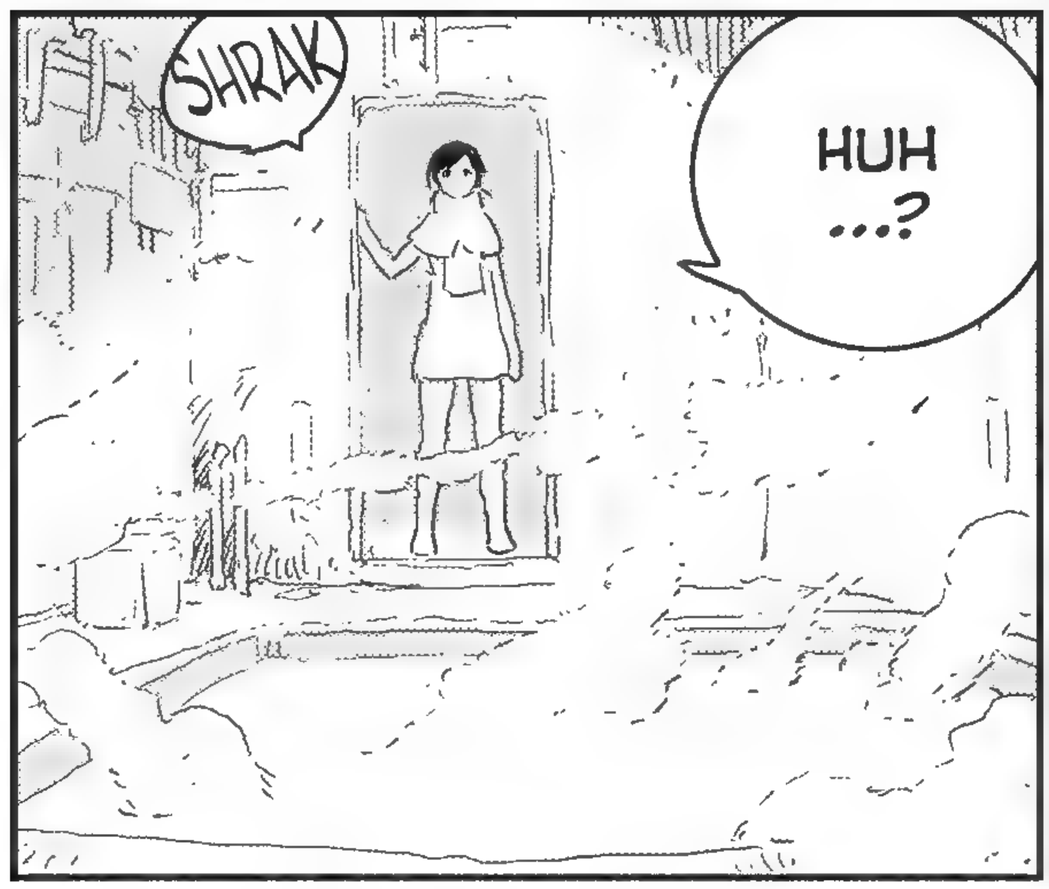
SWWSH

SPLAASH
ETHEROW ?!

BLUBLUBLUB


THUP THUP THUP

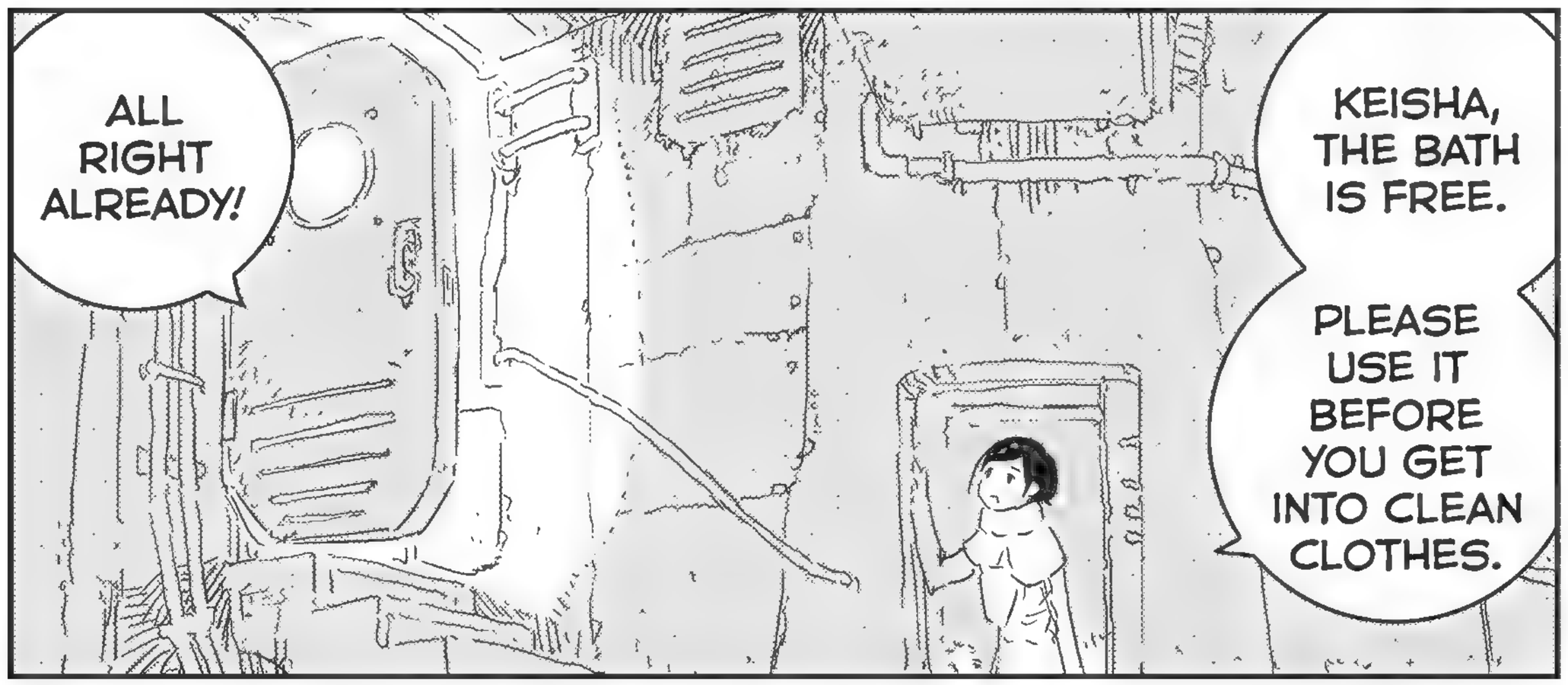
PERHAPS IT'S TIME I GOT OUT.

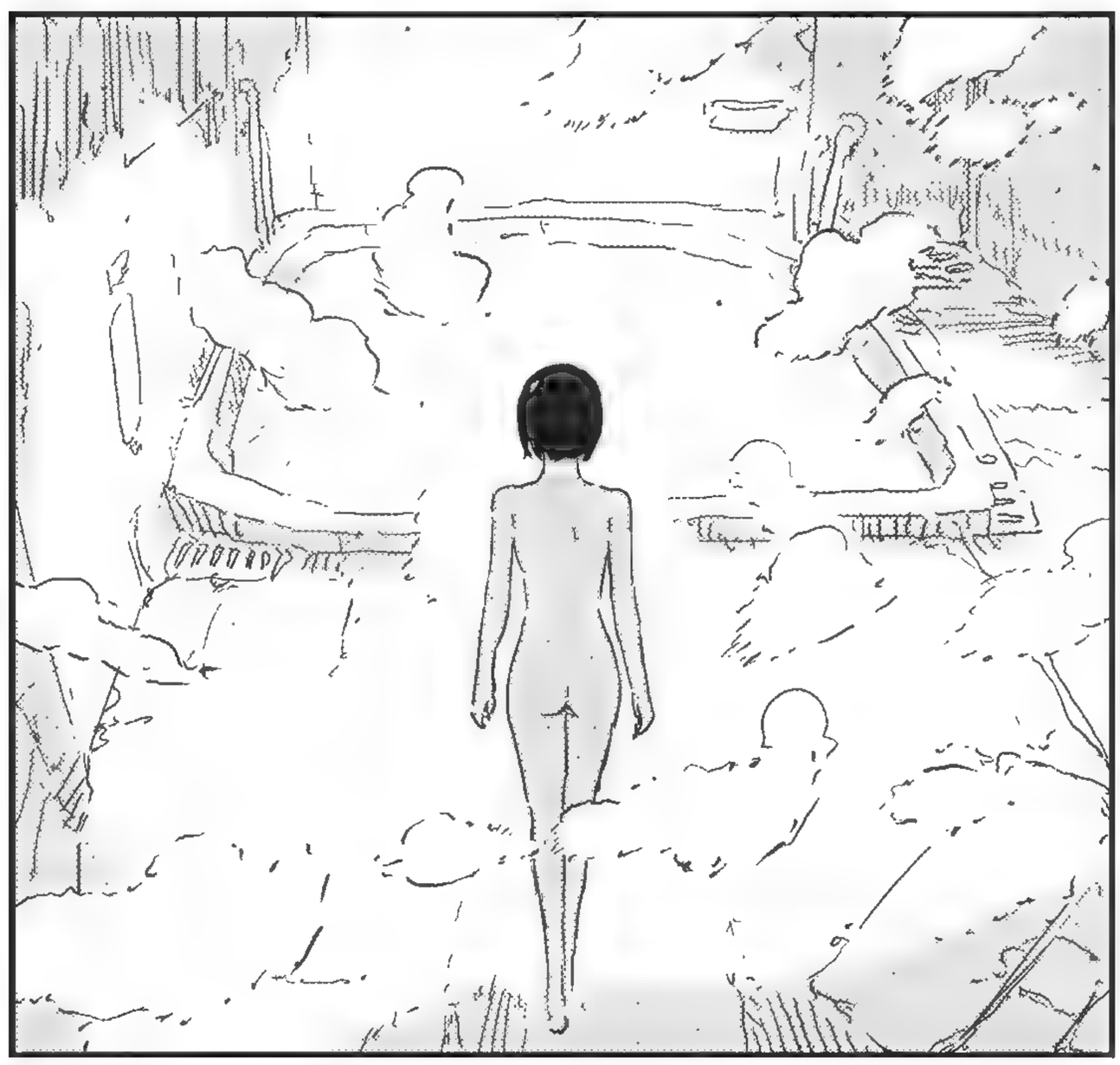
HE MUST BE EXHAUST-ED.
WELL, HE'S GONE TO SLEEP.


SHRAK
HUH ...?

HOW ARE YOU FINDING THE WATER?

MR. ETHEROW.


ALL RIGHT ALREADY!
KEISHA, THE BATH IS FREE.
PLEASE USE IT BEFORE YOU GET INTO CLEAN CLOTHES.

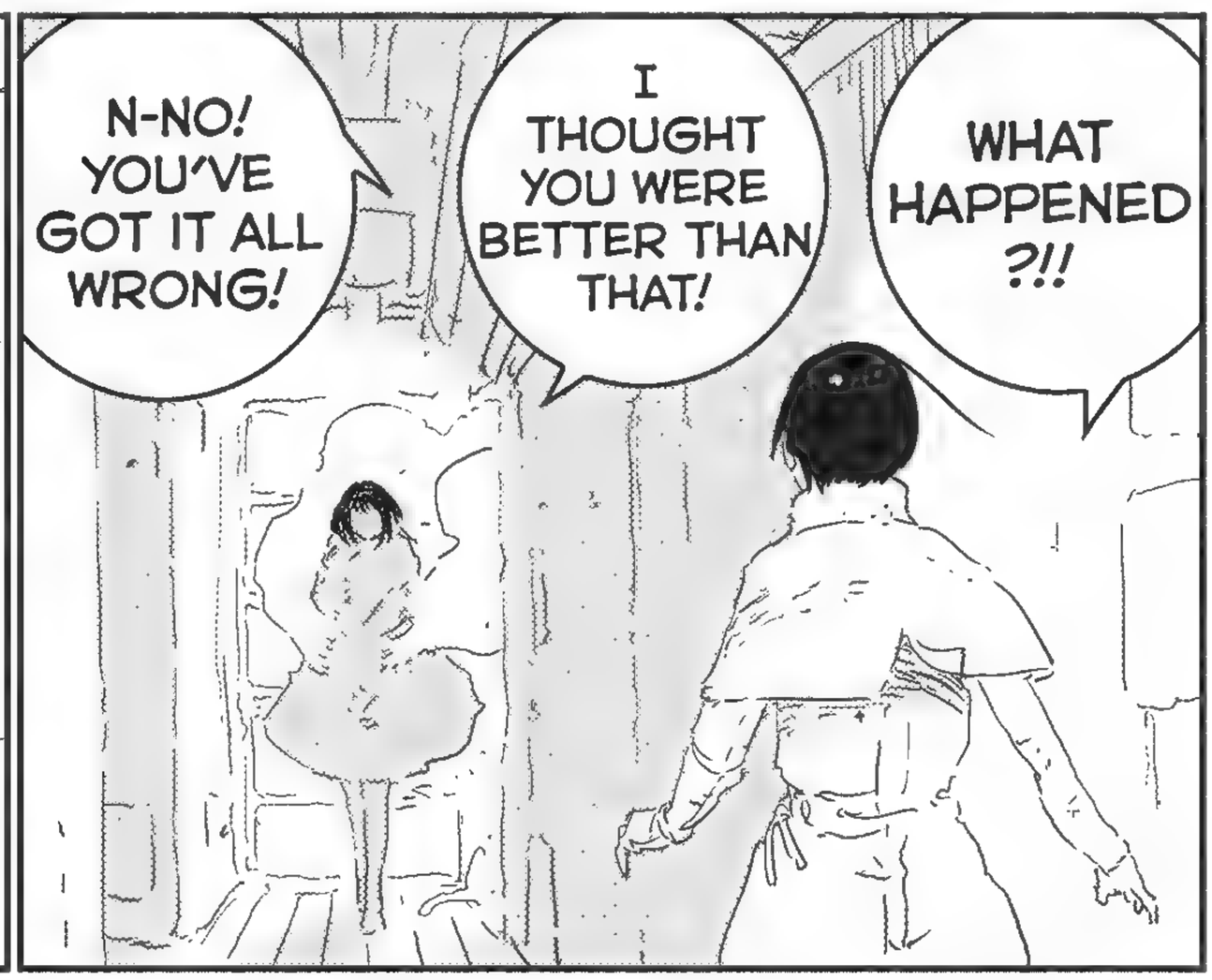


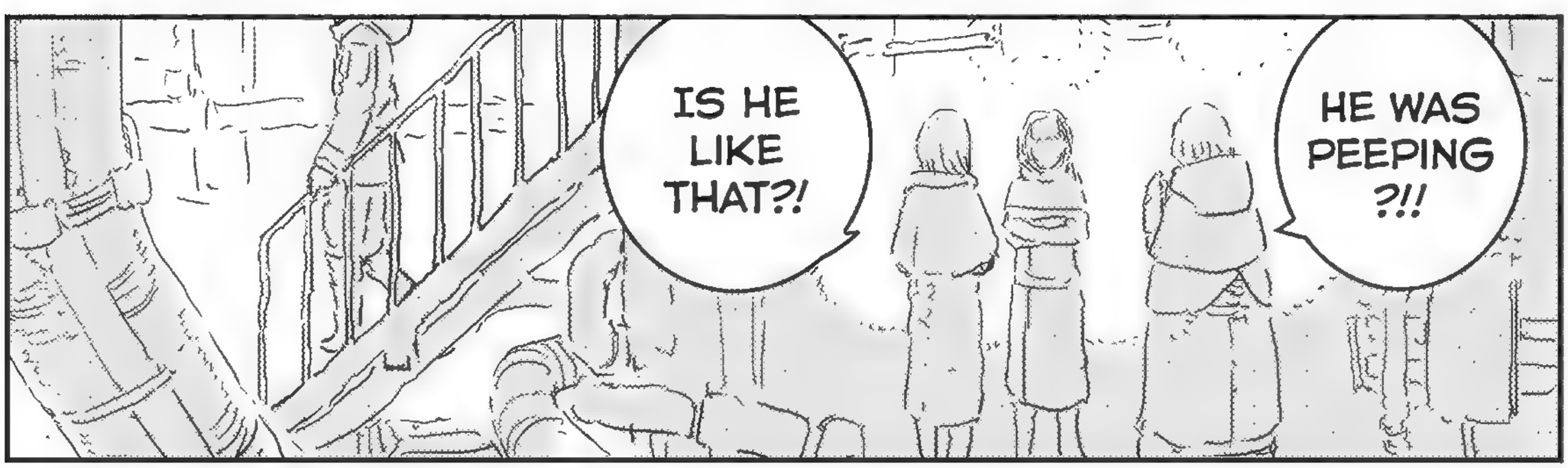
SHRAK
EVERYONE ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE A CHILD!

SSPLAASH

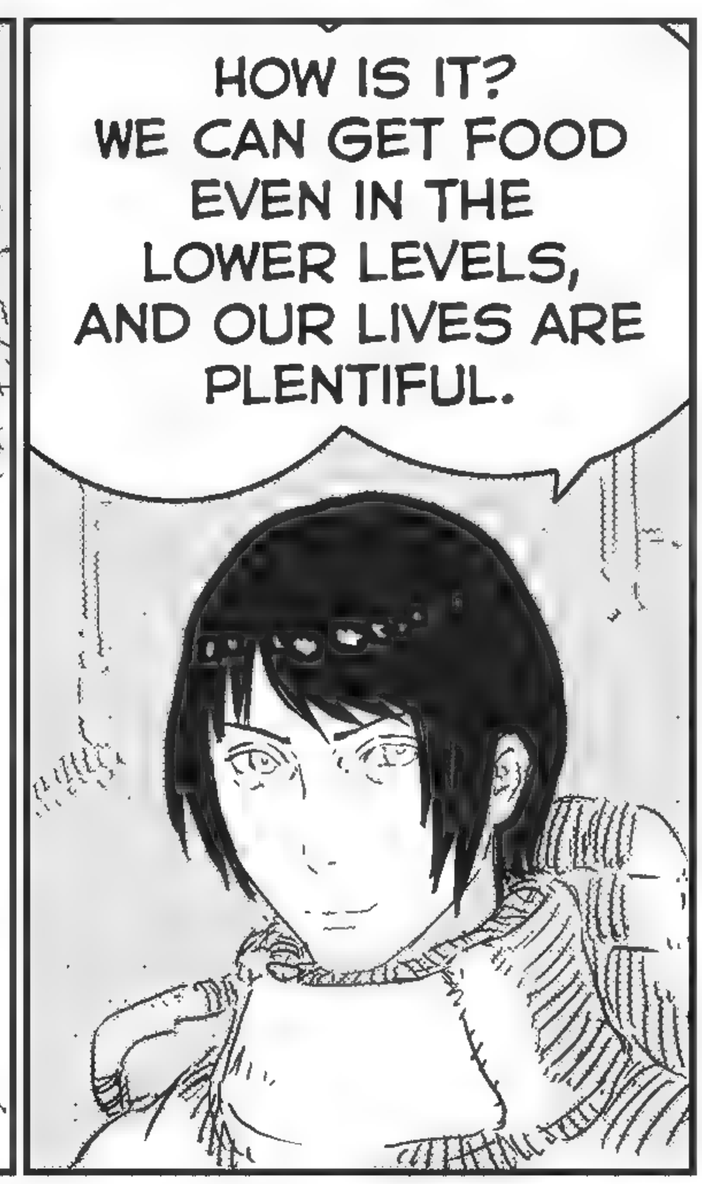
WAAAAH!!

E-THE-ROW!!
GGZZAAATCH


N-NO! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THAT!
WHAT HAPPENED ?!!


IS HE LIKE THAT?!
HE WAS PEEPING ?!!

SO IT WOULD SEEM.

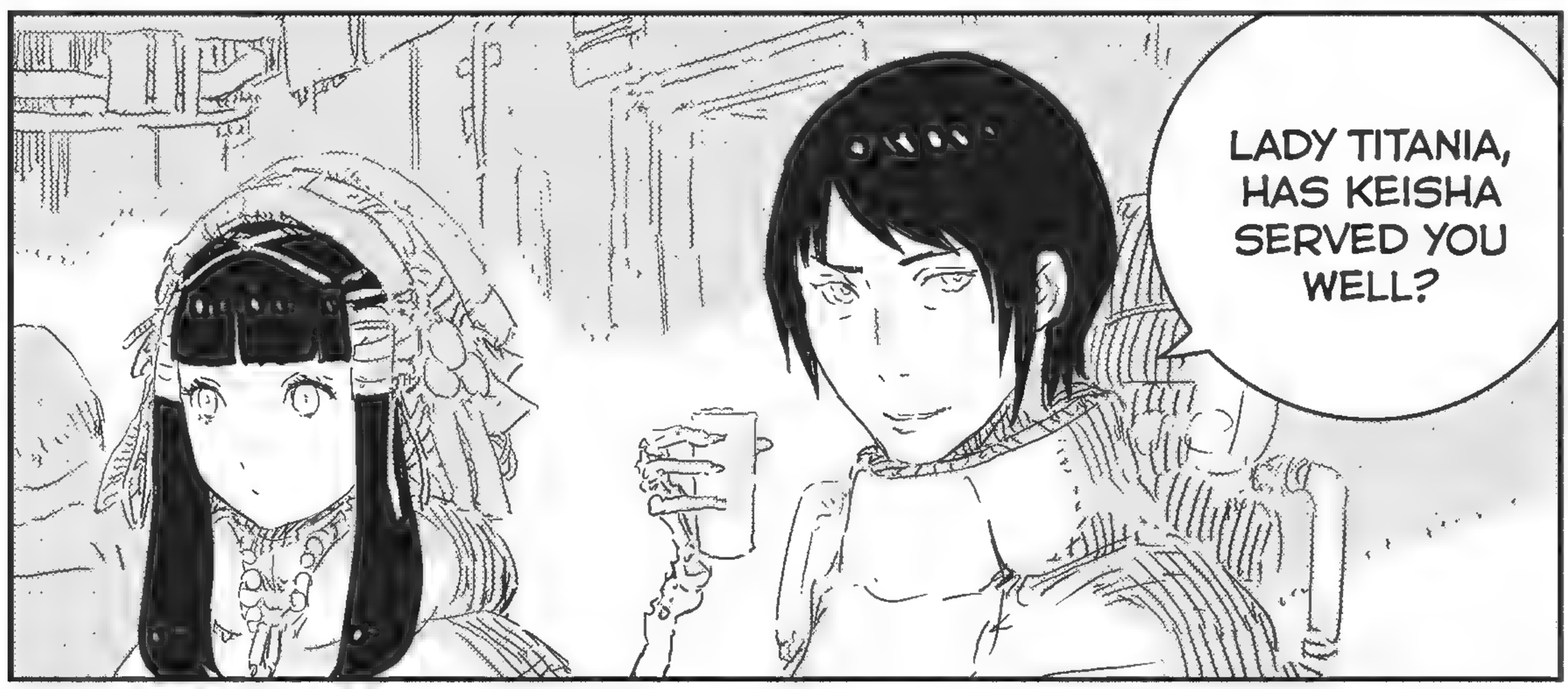

HOW IS IT? WE CAN GET FOOD EVEN IN THE LOWER LEVELS, AND OUR LIVES ARE PLENTIFUL.

HA HA HA!
I HEARD YOU GOT A LOOK AT KEISHA IN THE BATH!

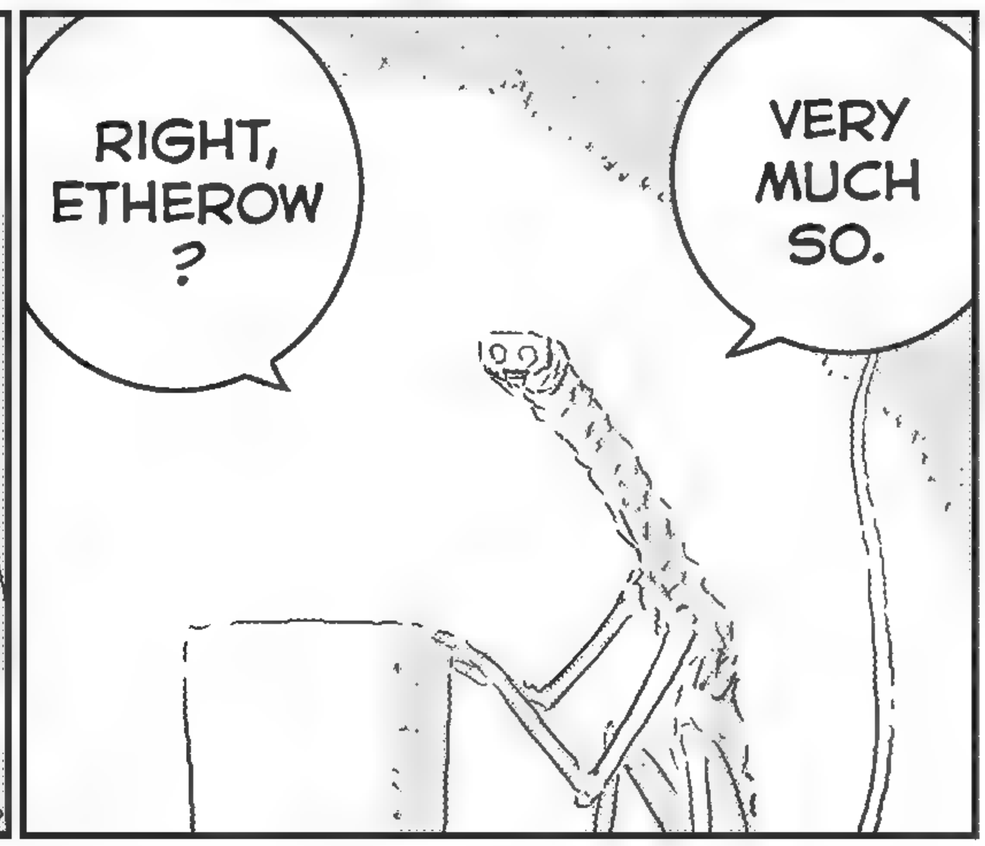
HEY, YOU.

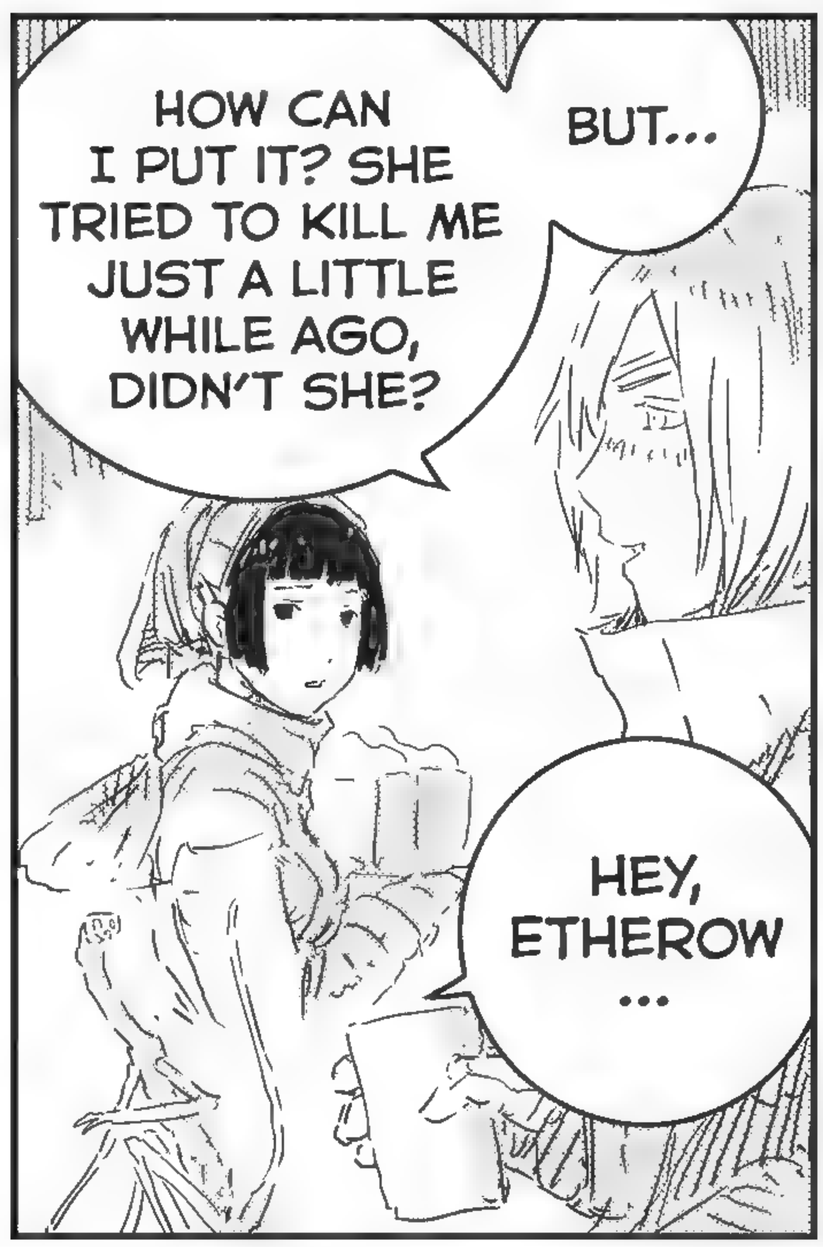
YOU GONNA STAY HERE A WHILE? HOW 'BOUT WE GO HUNTING TOGETHER TOMORROW?
OTA. DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, NOW!
BUMP

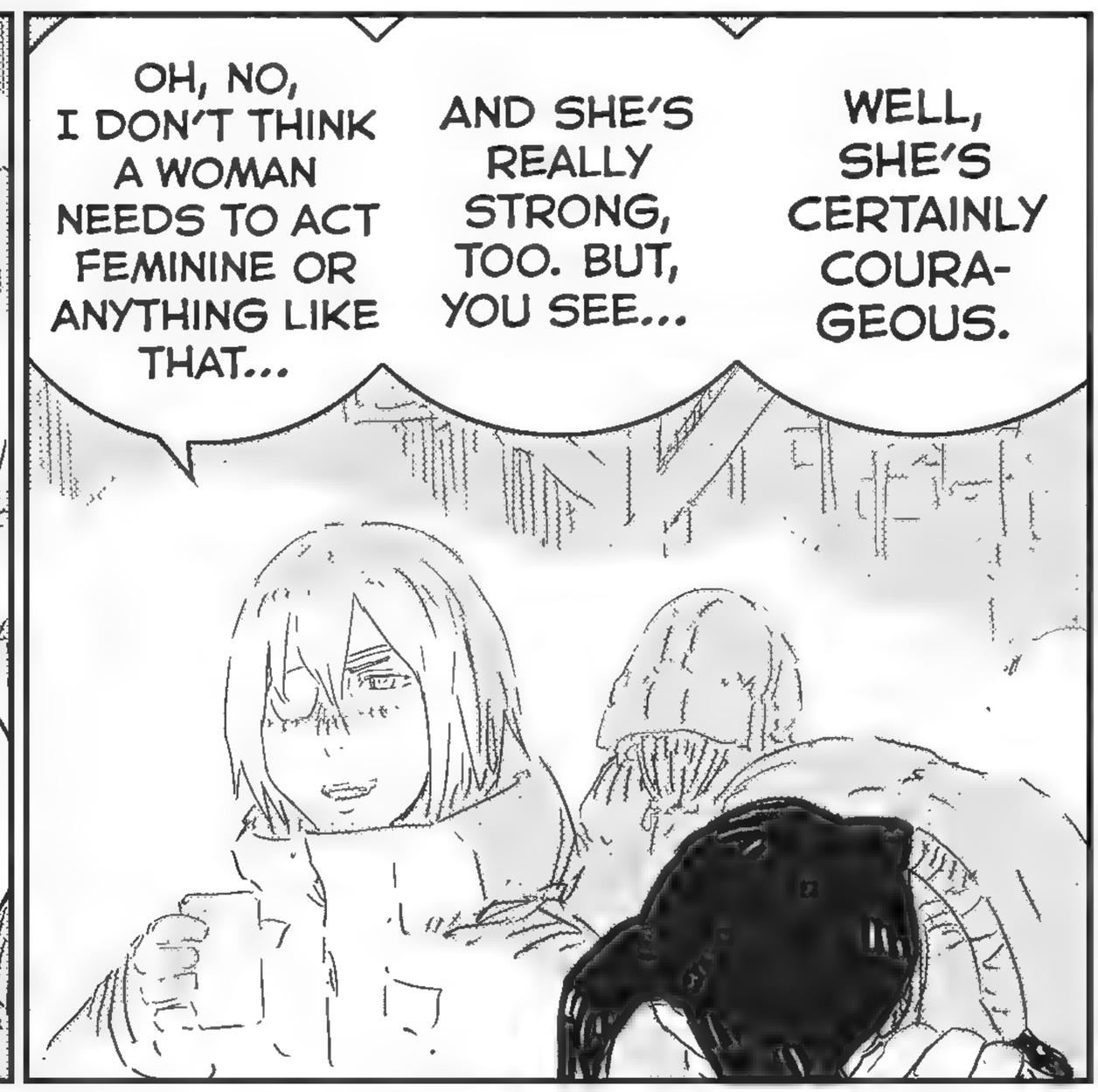
SO WE WERE ON PINS AND NEEDLES WONDERING WHAT KINDA FEARLESS WARRIOR WAS GONNA SHOW UP,
WE HEARD YOU BEAT THREE TOP-RANKED REINCAR-NATEDS AT ONCE,
BUT NOW... KEH HEH HEH! ALL OF A SUDDEN I FEEL LIKE WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER!

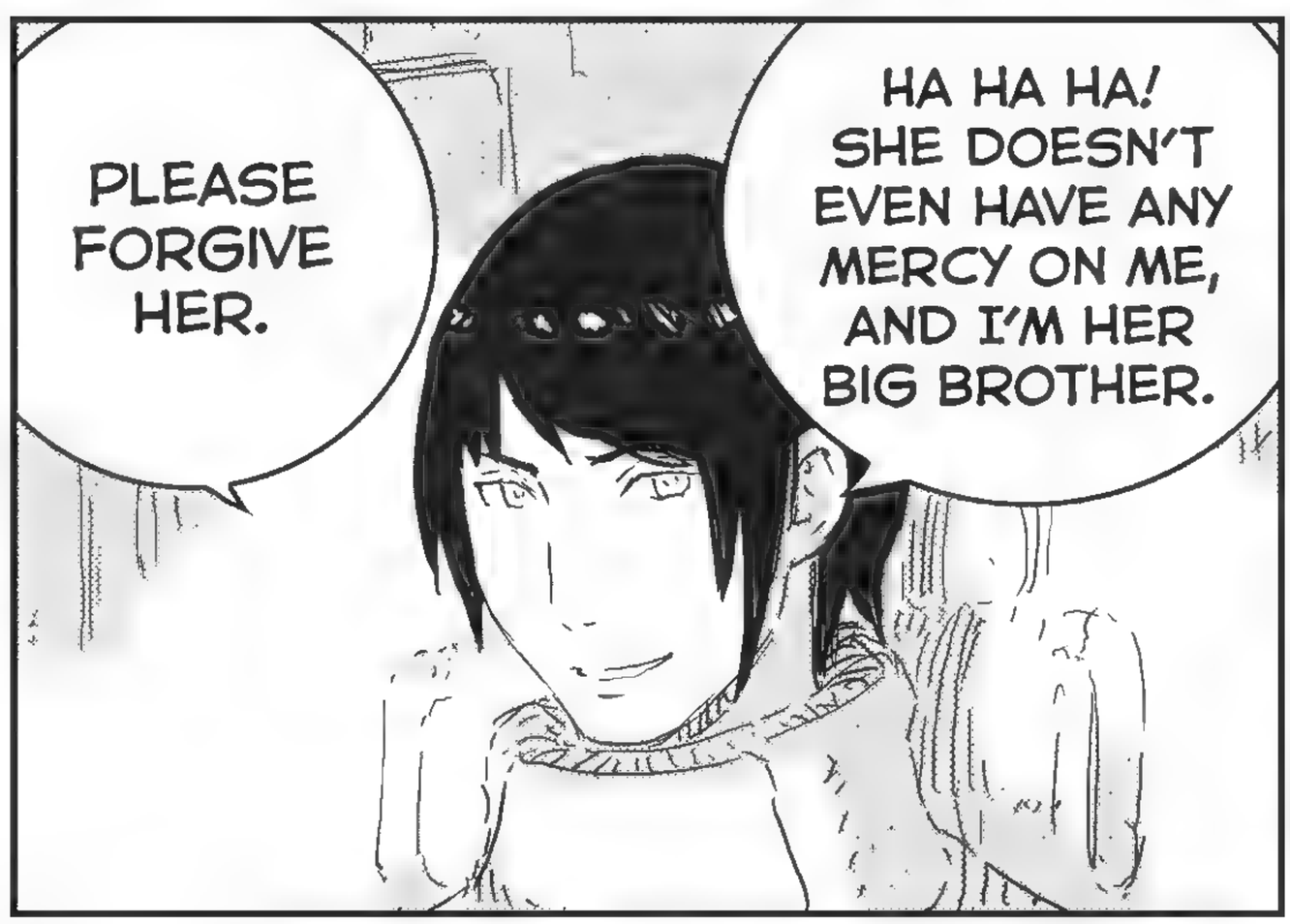

LADY TITANIA, HAS KEISHA SERVED YOU WELL?

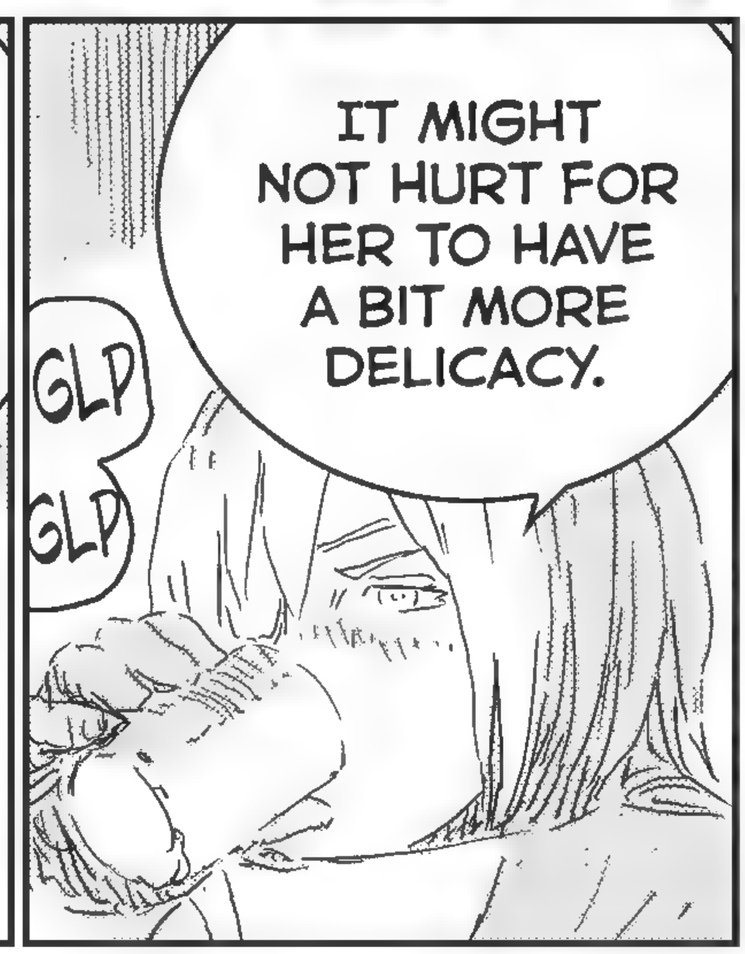
KEISHA. WELL...

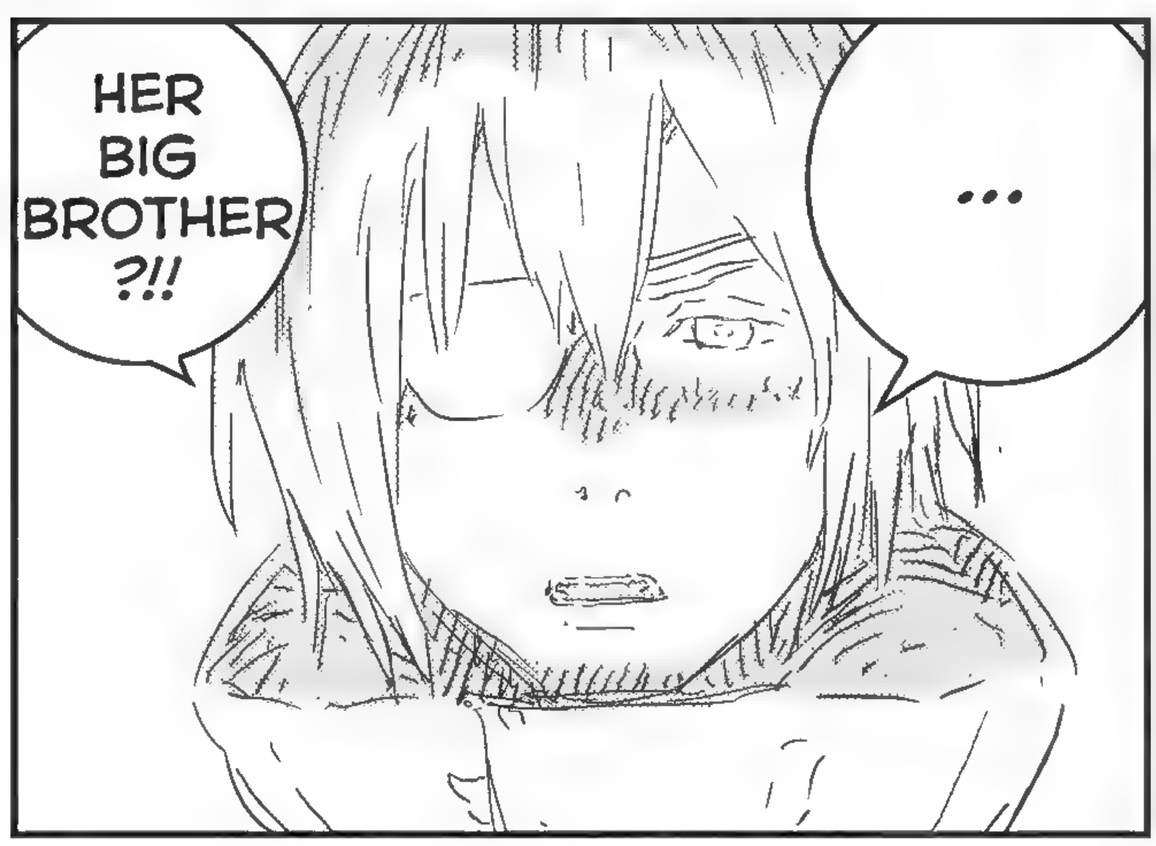

RIGHT, ETHEROW ?
VERY MUCH SO.


HOW CAN I PUT IT? SHE TRIED TO KILL ME JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, DIDN'T SHE?
BUT...
HEY, ETHEROW ...


OH, NO, I DON'T THINK A WOMAN NEEDS TO ACT FEMININE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
AND SHE'S REALLY STRONG, TOO. BUT, YOU SEE...
WELL, SHE'S CERTAINLY COURA-GEOUS.

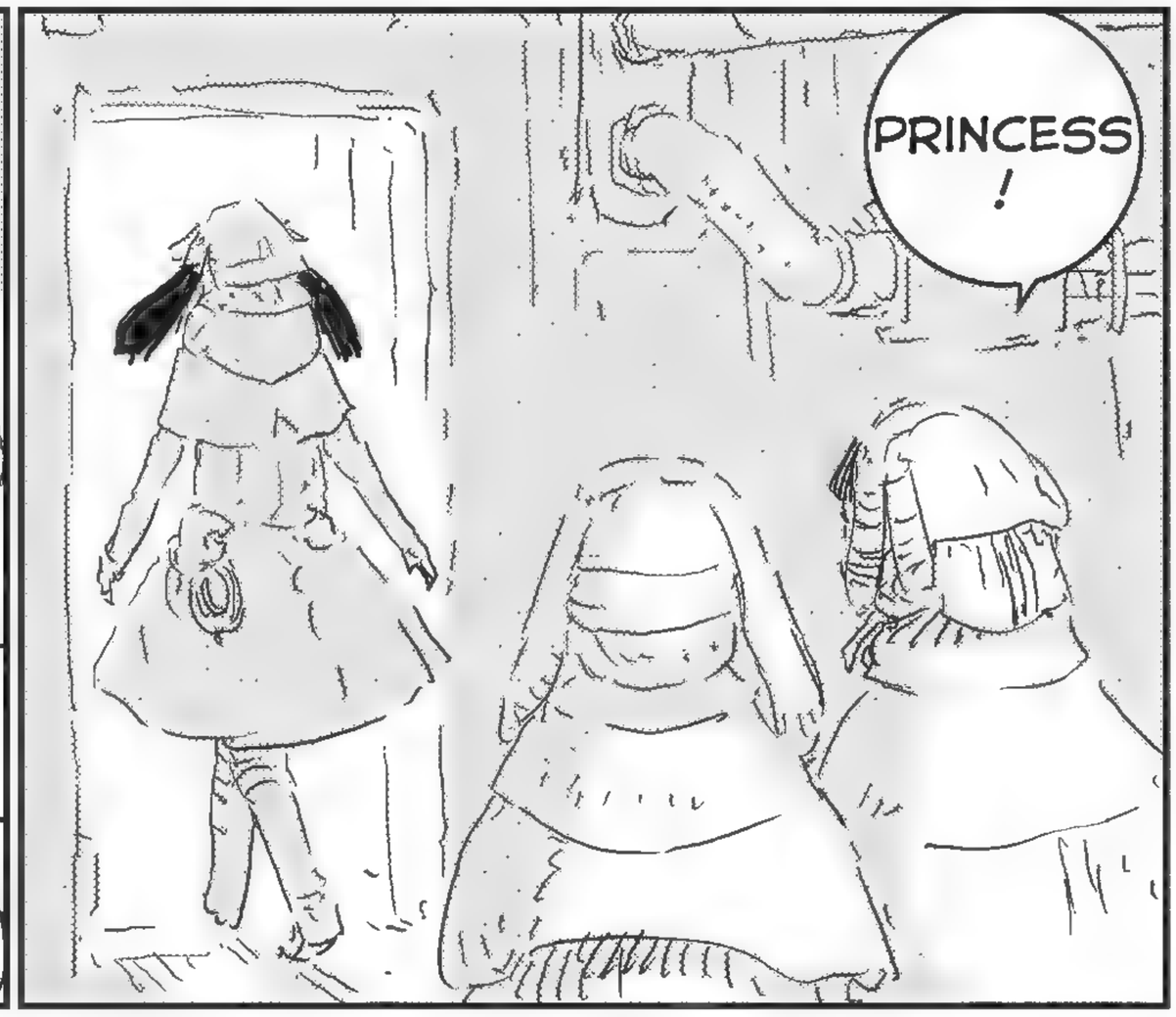

PLEASE FORGIVE HER.
HA HA HA! SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY MERCY ON ME, AND I'M HER BIG BROTHER.

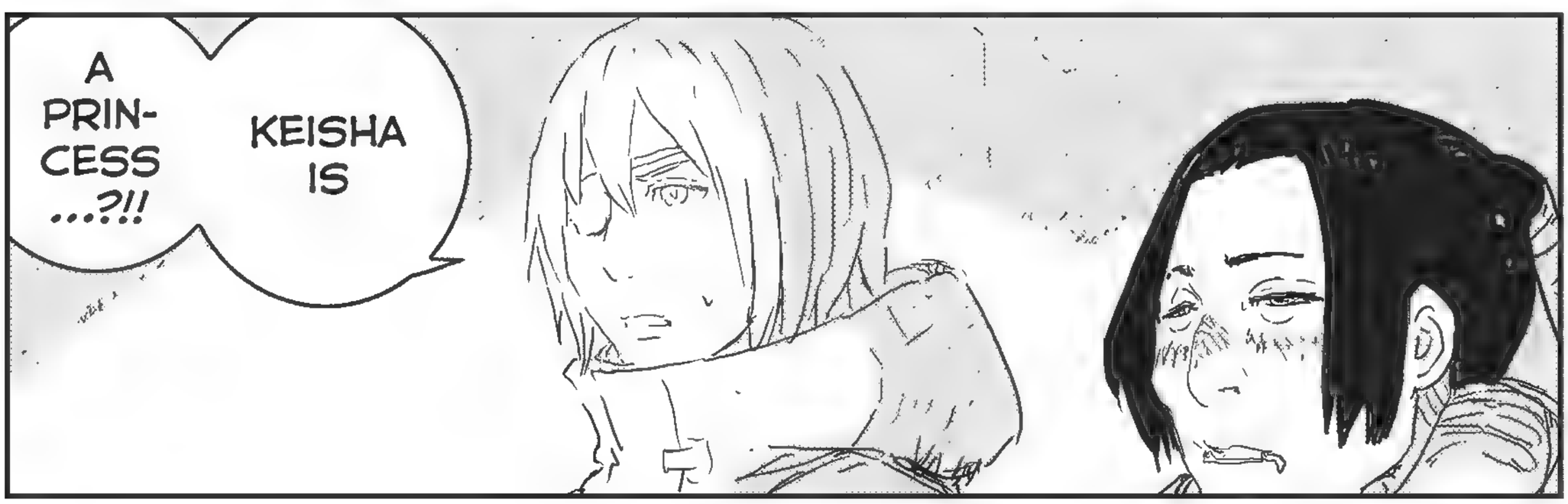

IT MIGHT NOT HURT FOR HER TO HAVE A BIT MORE DELICACY.
GLP
GLP

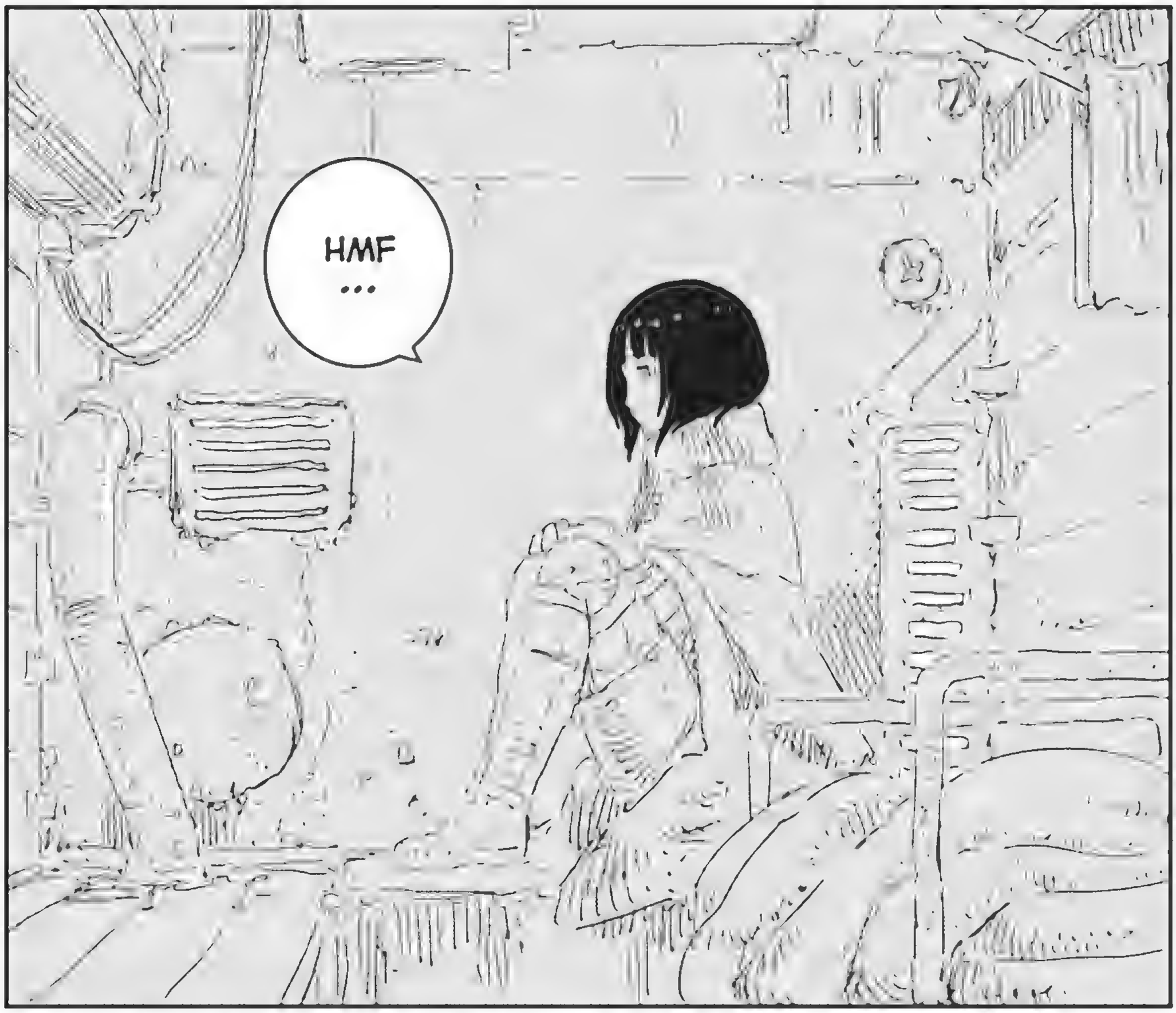

HER BIG BROTHER ?!!
...

TREMBLE
TREMBLE

WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR NOT BEING DELICATE!!

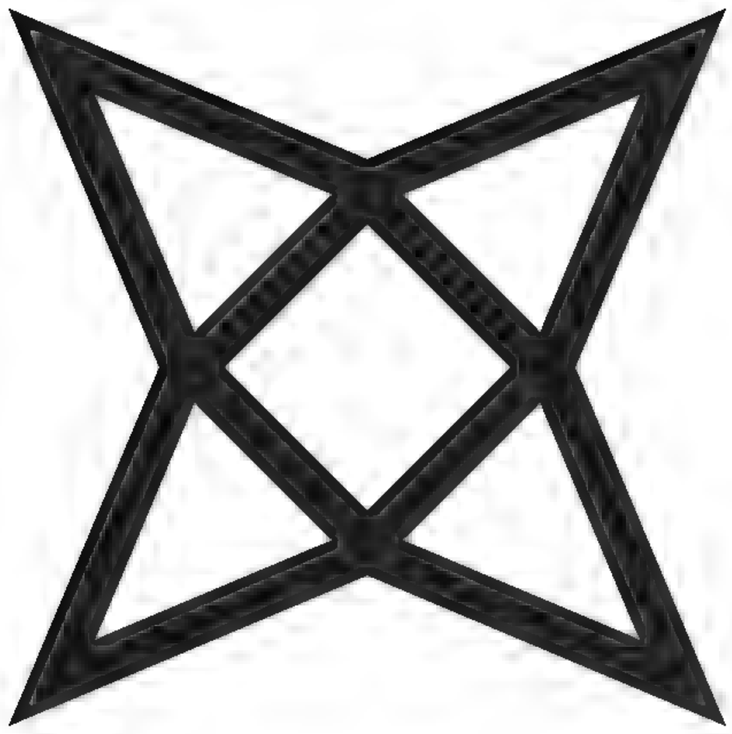




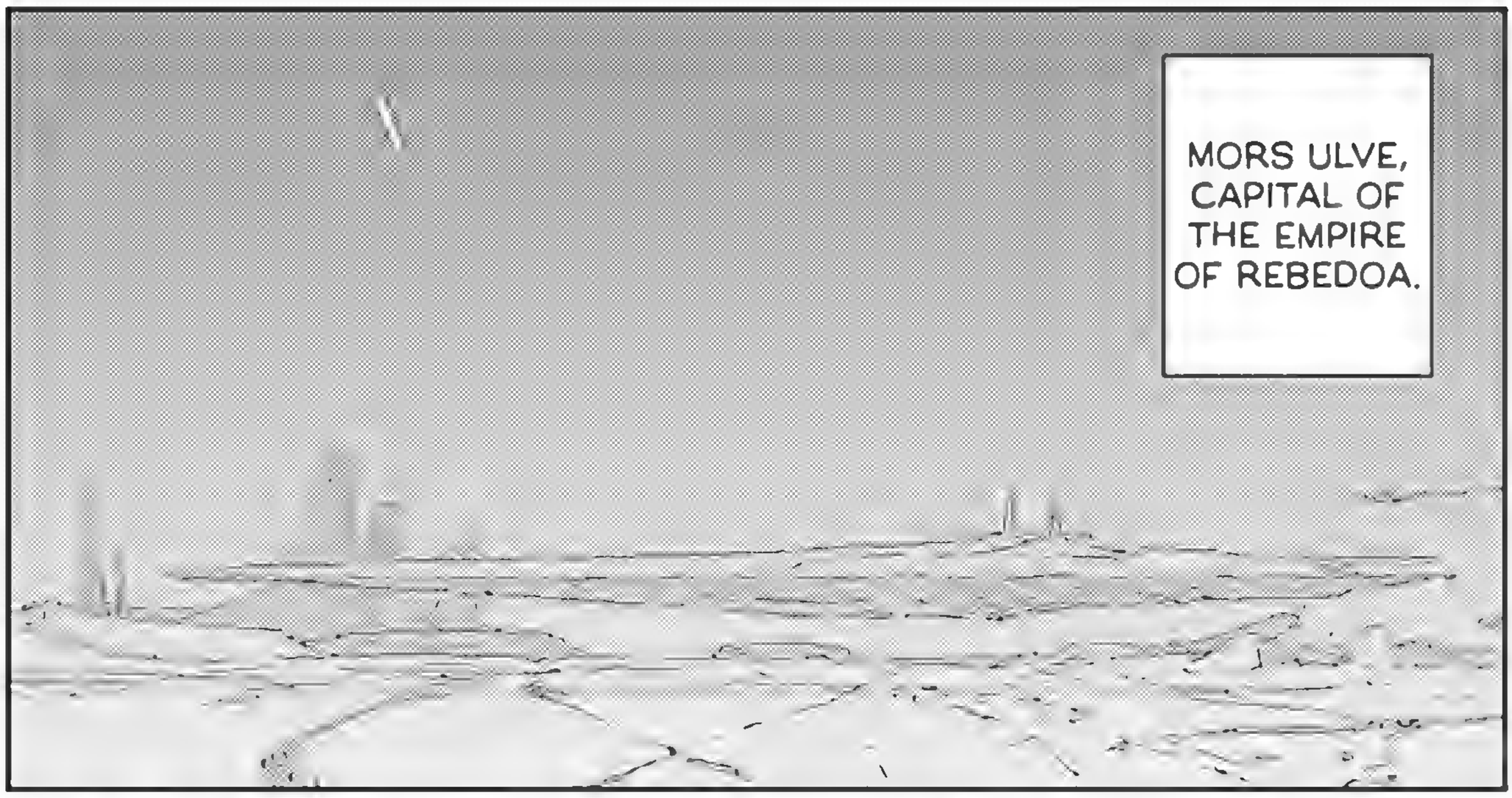


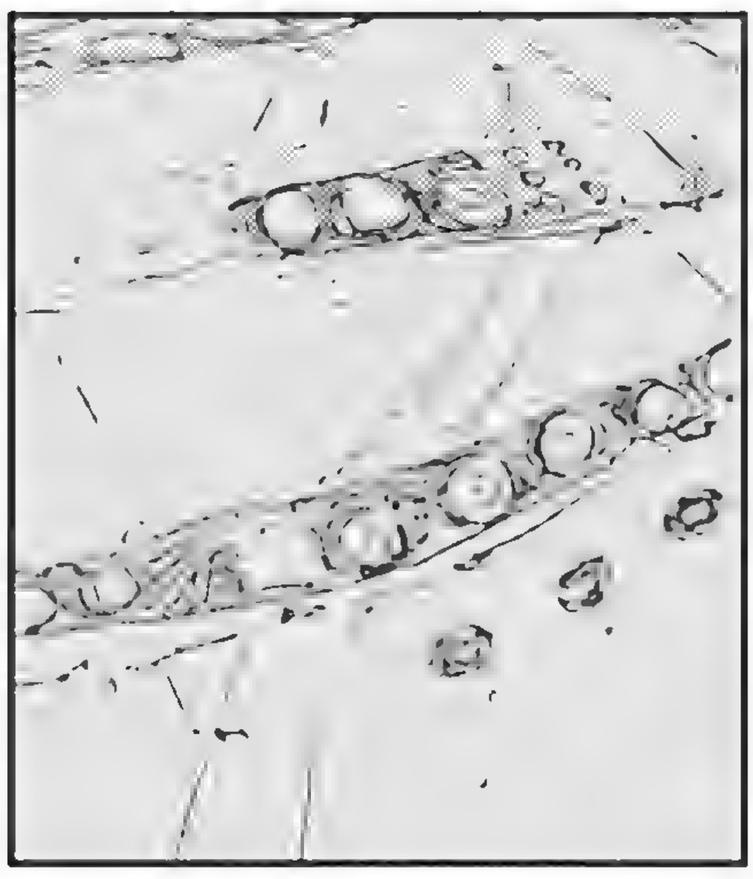
CHAPTER 11 END

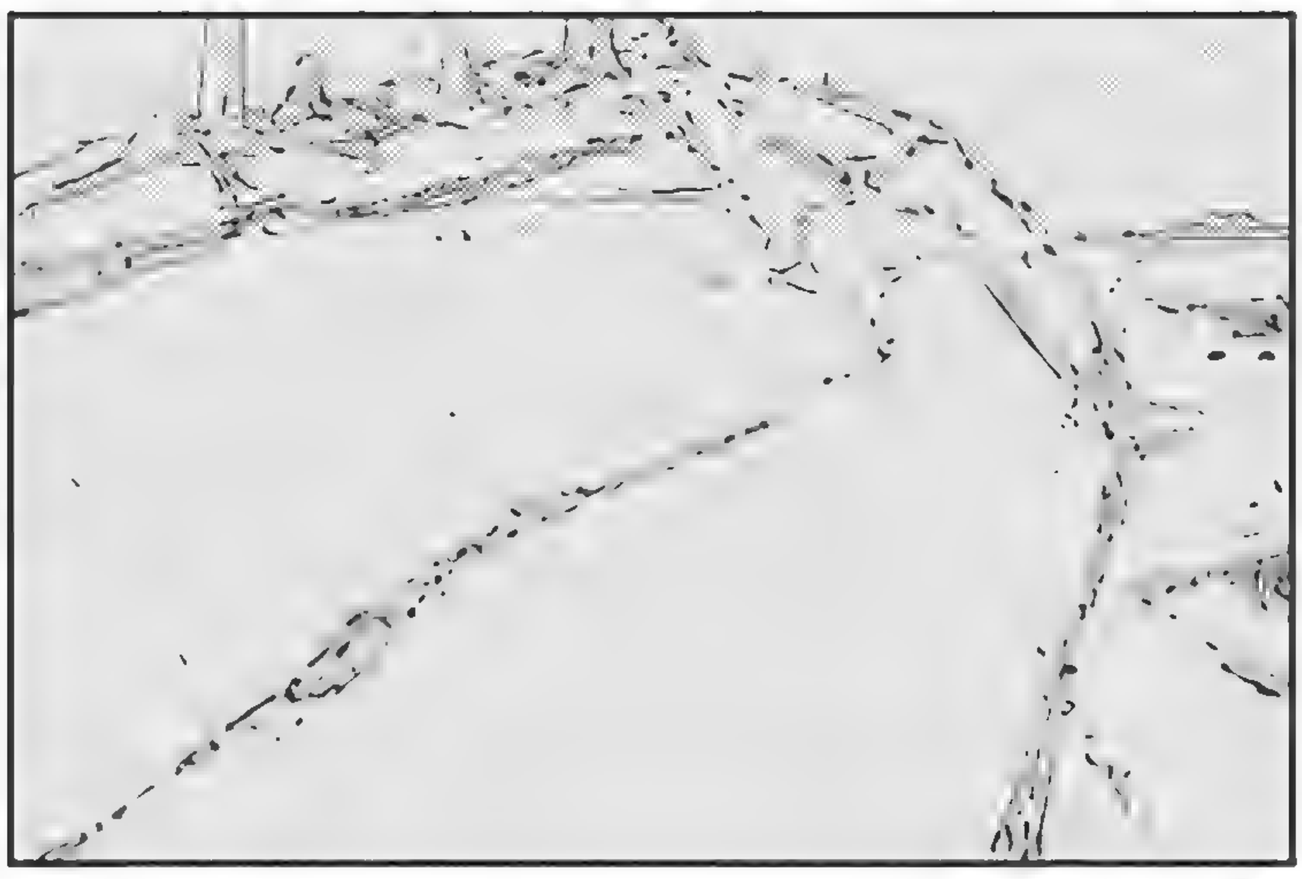
APOSIMZ

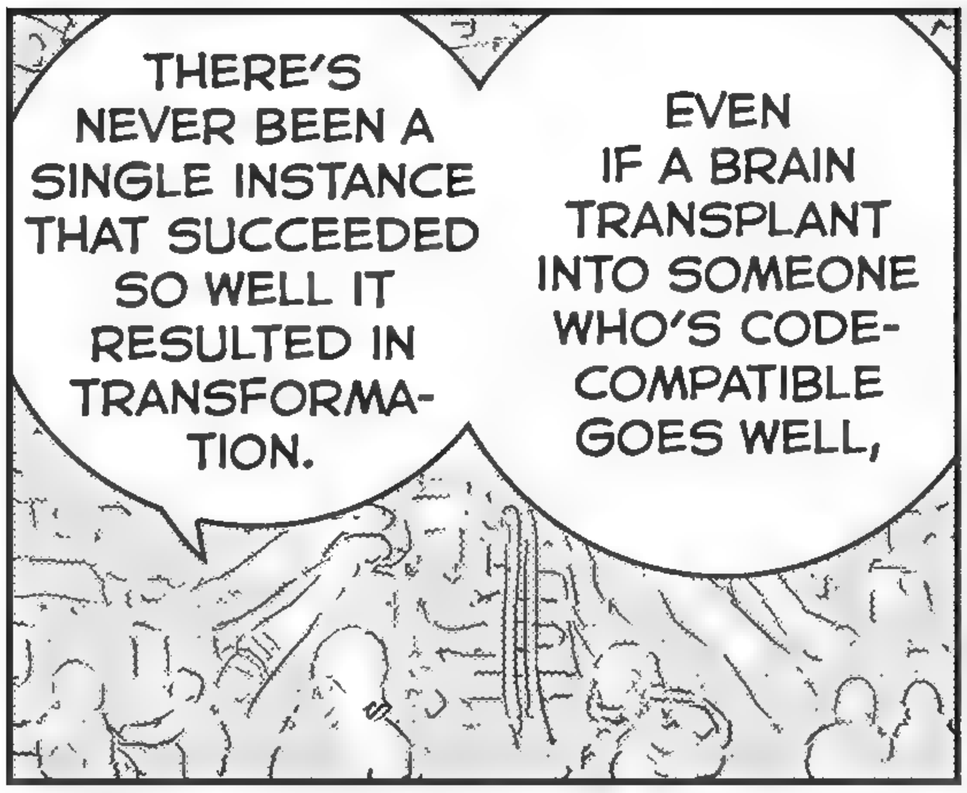


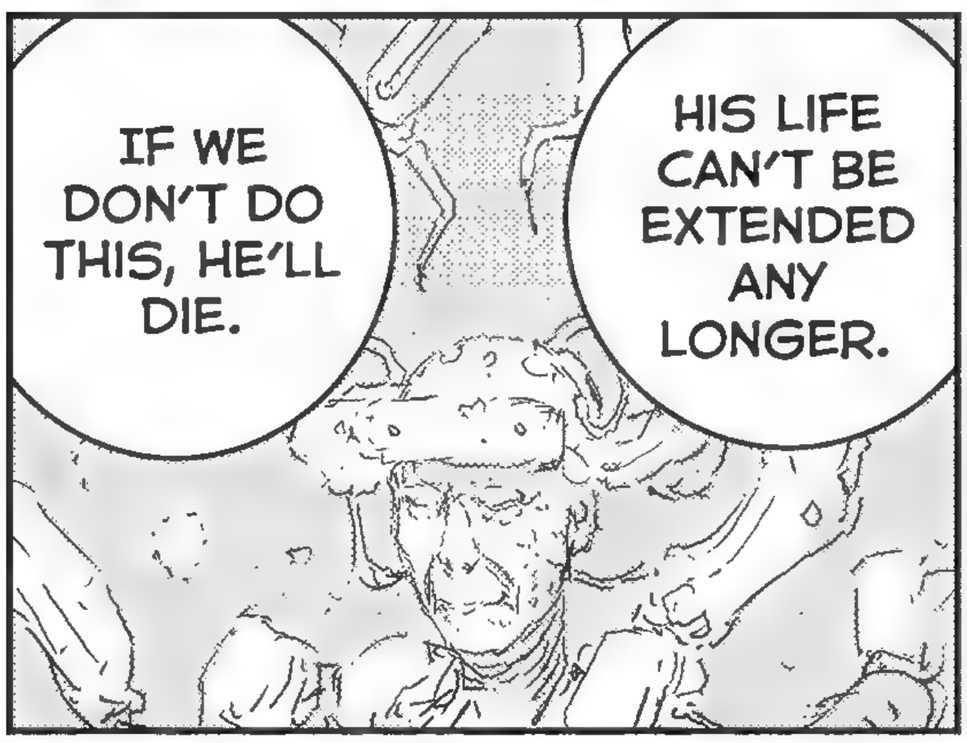
CHAPTER 12


MORS ULVE, CAPITAL OF THE EMPIRE OF REBEDOA.






THERE'S NEVER BEEN A SINGLE INSTANCE THAT SUCCEEDED SO WELL IT RESULTED IN TRANSFORMATION.
EVEN IF A BRAIN TRANSPLANT INTO SOMEONE WHO'S CODE-COMPATIBLE GOES WELL,


IF WE DON'T DO THIS, HE'LL DIE.
HIS LIFE CAN'T BE EXTENDED ANY LONGER.

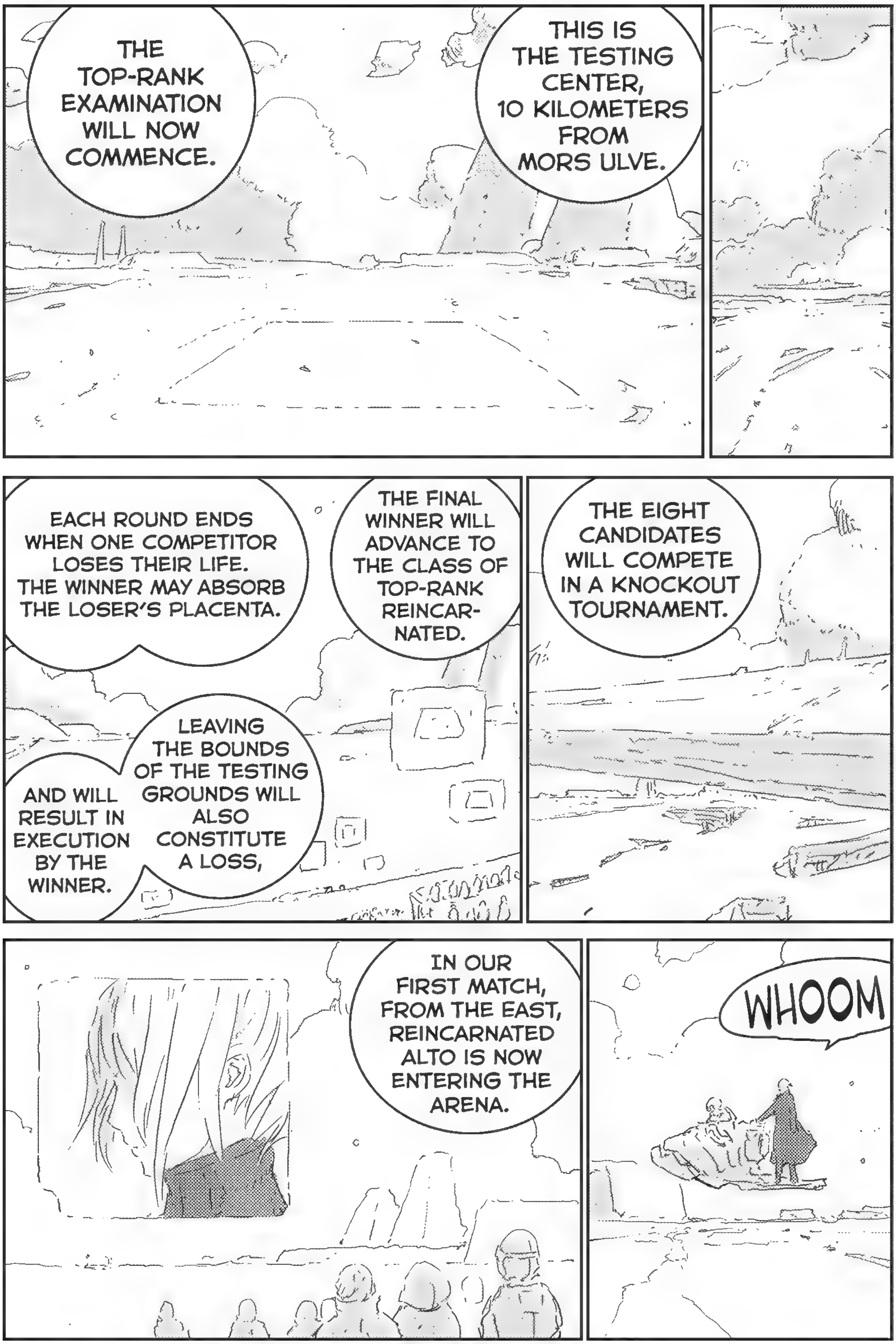
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO DO THIS?
INITIATING BRAIN TRANSPLANT AND TRANSFORMATION. PREPARING FOR INCISION.

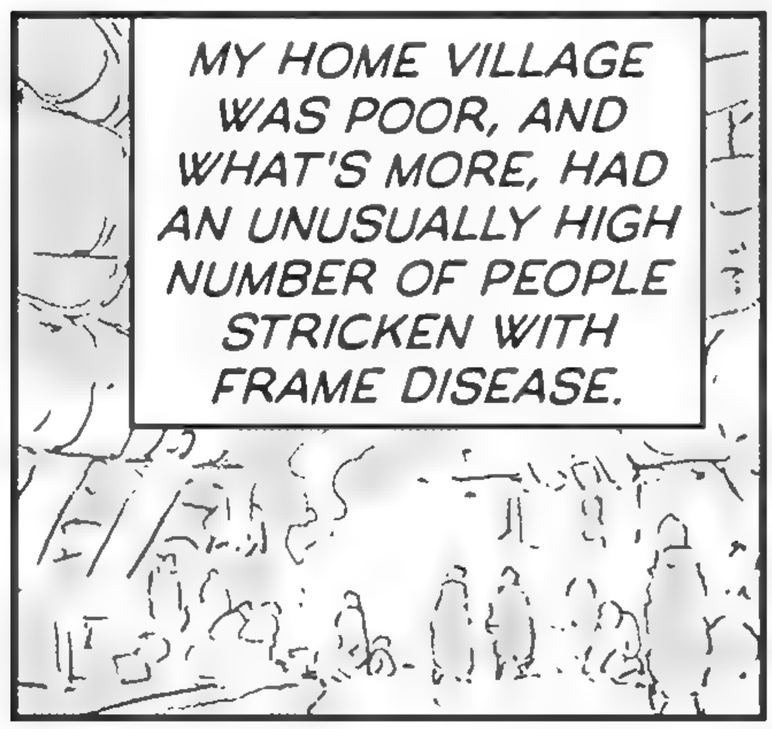
...

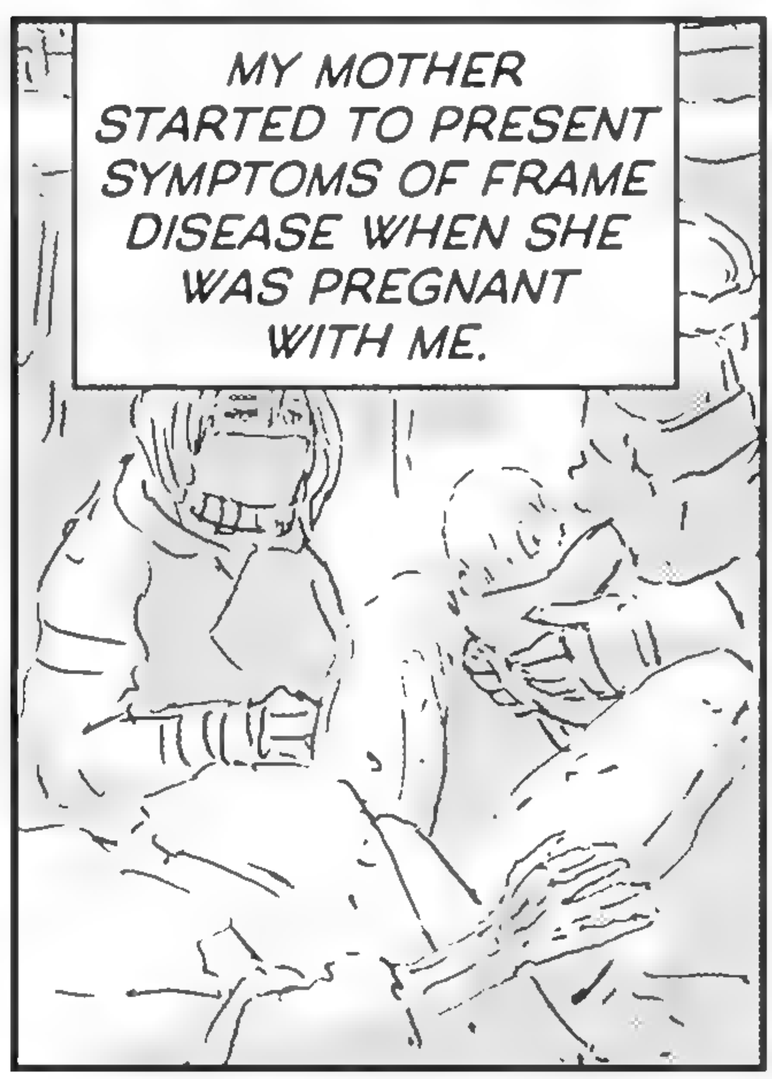
JUST BE QUIET AND HELP ME.
HIS HIGHNESS THE EMPEROR HAS COMMANDED IT.

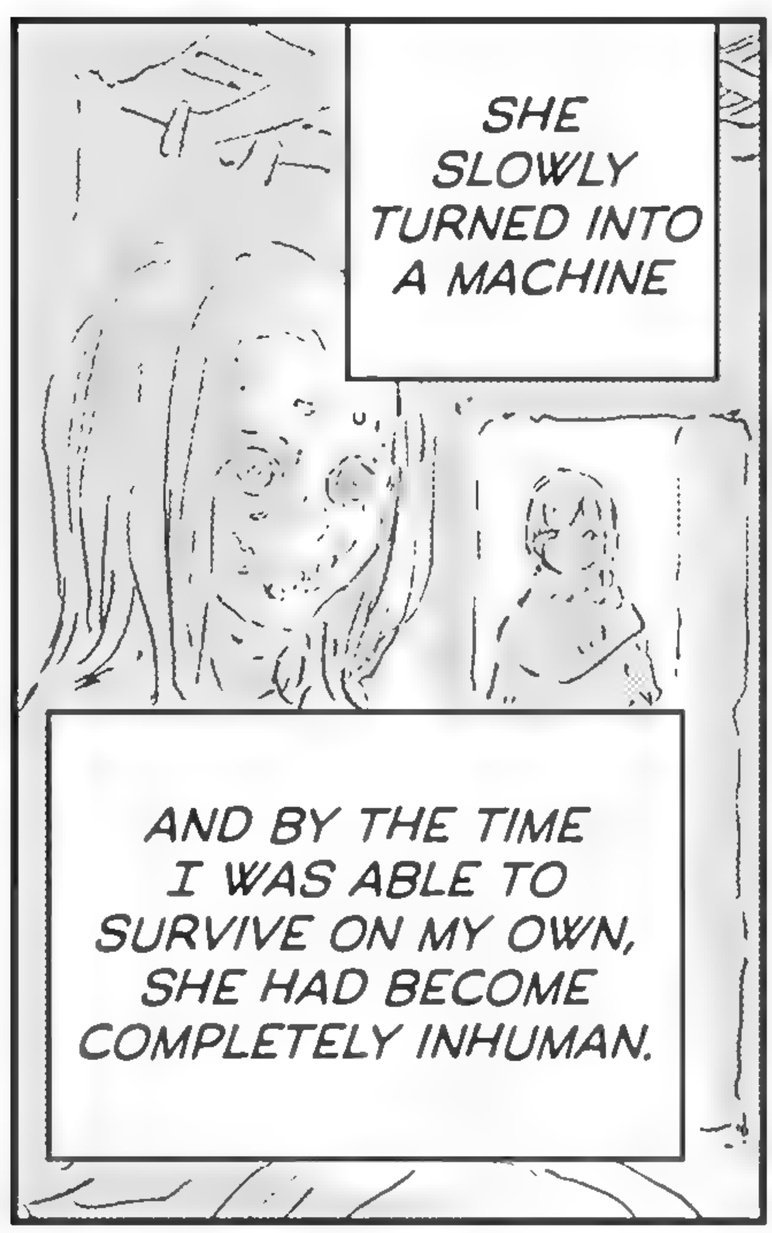
HE IS A REBEDOAN HERO.
HE SHOULDN'T BE USED FOR THIS KIND OF EXPERIMENTATION.

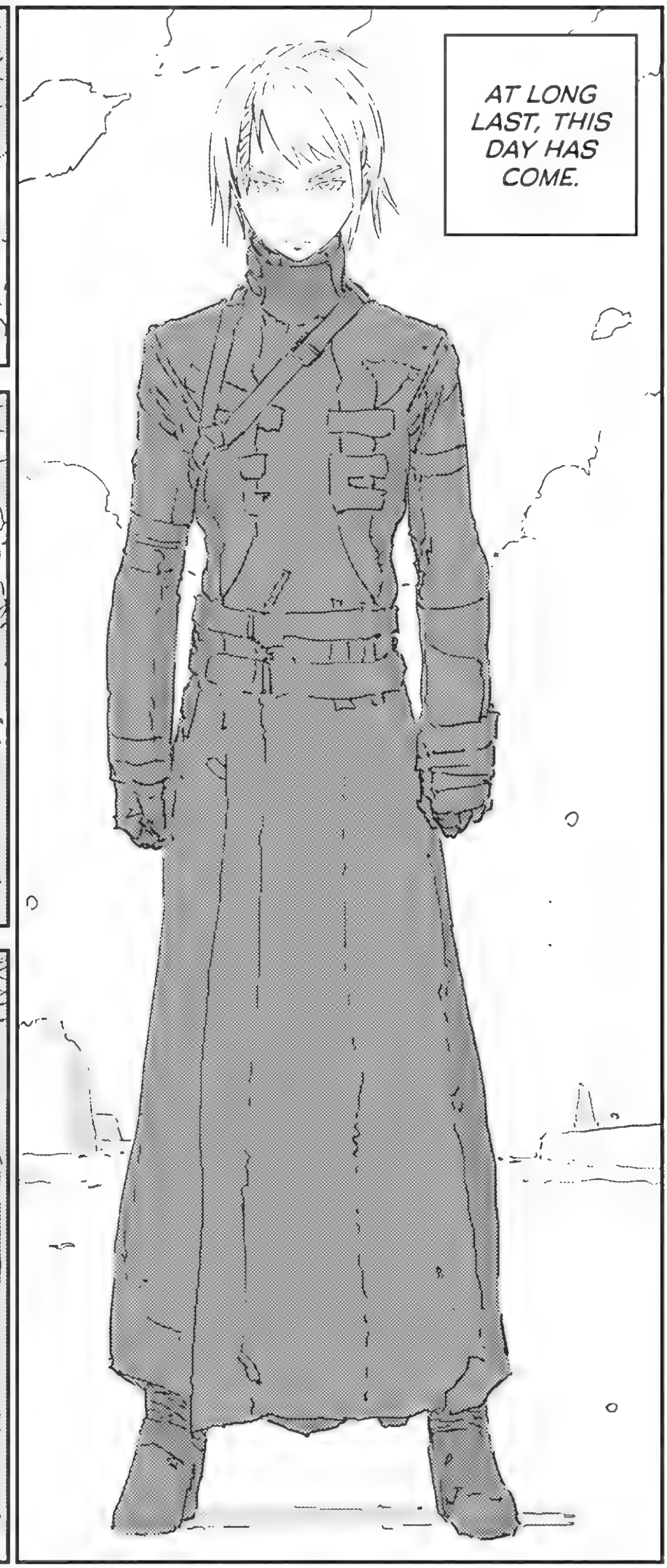
WHAT'S THE CODE COMPATIBILITY RATIO?
TRANSPLANT COMPLETE!
HURRY !!
DO IT QUICKLY !!
IT'S DROPPING LOWER AND LOWER!
START THE TRANSFOR-MATION AT ONCE!!

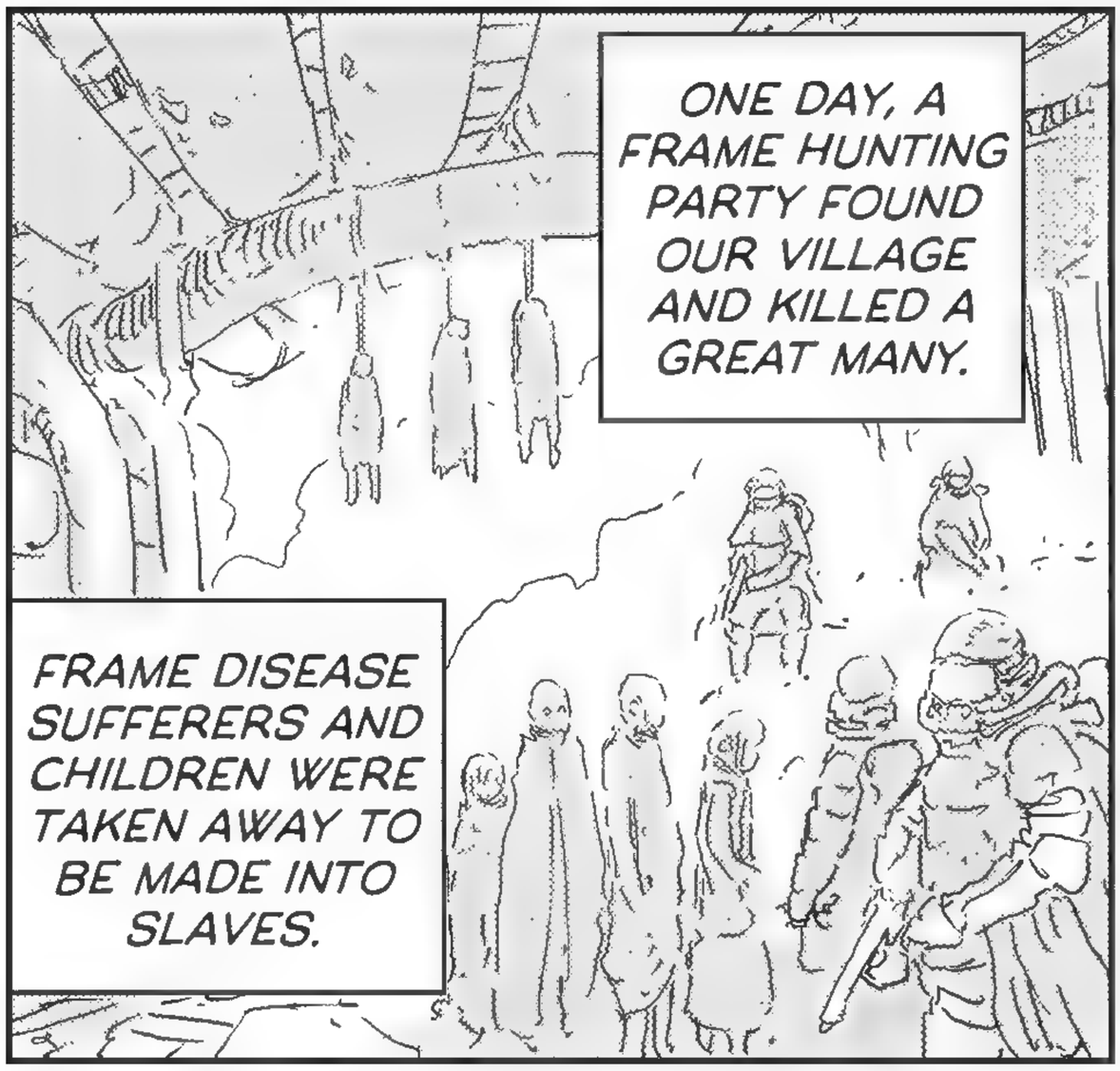

THE TOP-RANK EXAMINATION WILL NOW COMMENCE.
THIS IS THE TESTING CENTER, 10 KILOMETERS FROM MORS ULVE.
EACH ROUND ENDS WHEN ONE COMPETITOR LOSES THEIR LIFE. THE WINNER MAY ABSORB THE LOSER'S PLACENTA.
THE FINAL WINNER WILL ADVANCE TO THE CLASS OF TOP-RANK REINCAR-NATED.
LEAVING THE BOUNDS OF THE TESTING GROUNDS WILL ALSO CONSTITUTE A LOSS,
AND WILL RESULT IN EXECUTION BY THE WINNER.
THE EIGHT CANDIDATES WILL COMPETE IN A KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT.
IN OUR FIRST MATCH, FROM THE EAST, REINCARNATED ALTO IS NOW ENTERING THE ARENA.
WHOOM

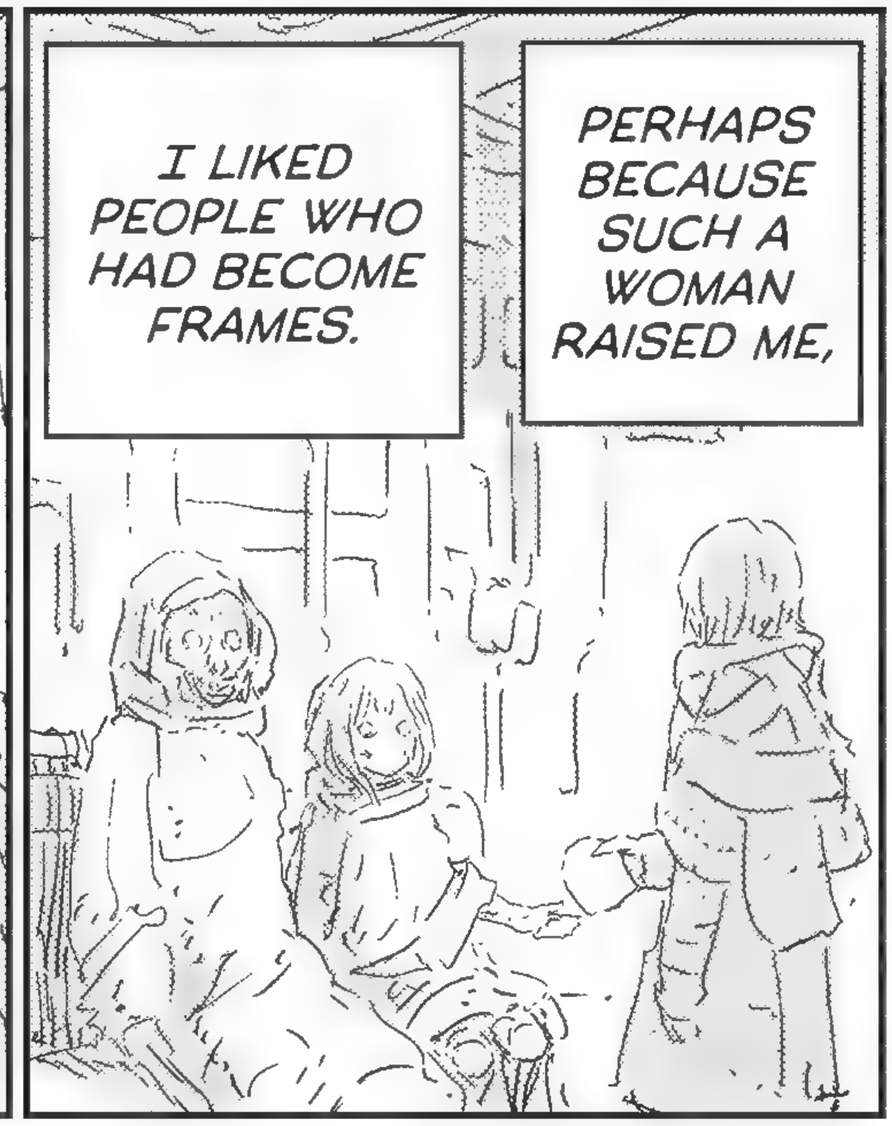

MY HOME VILLAGE WAS POOR, AND WHAT'S MORE, HAD AN UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF PEOPLE STRICKEN WITH FRAME DISEASE.

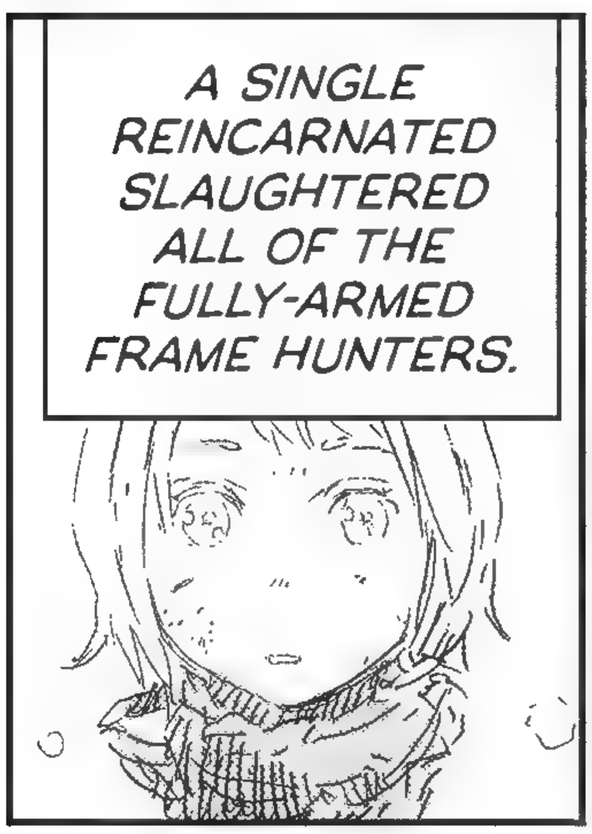

MY MOTHER STARTED TO PRESENT SYMPTOMS OF FRAME DISEASE WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH ME.


SHE SLOWLY TURNED INTO A MACHINE
AND BY THE TIME I WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE ON MY OWN, SHE HAD BECOME COMPLETELY INHUMAN.

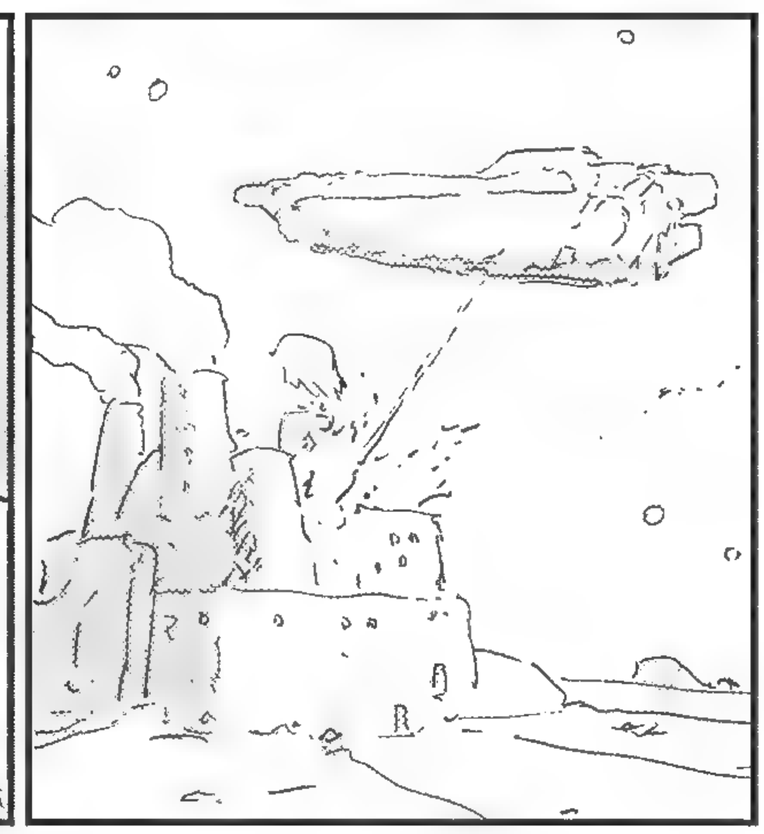

AT LONG LAST, THIS DAY HAS COME.


ONE DAY, A FRAME HUNTING PARTY FOUND OUR VILLAGE AND KILLED A GREAT MANY.
FRAME DISEASE SUFFERERS AND CHILDREN WERE TAKEN AWAY TO BE MADE INTO SLAVES.

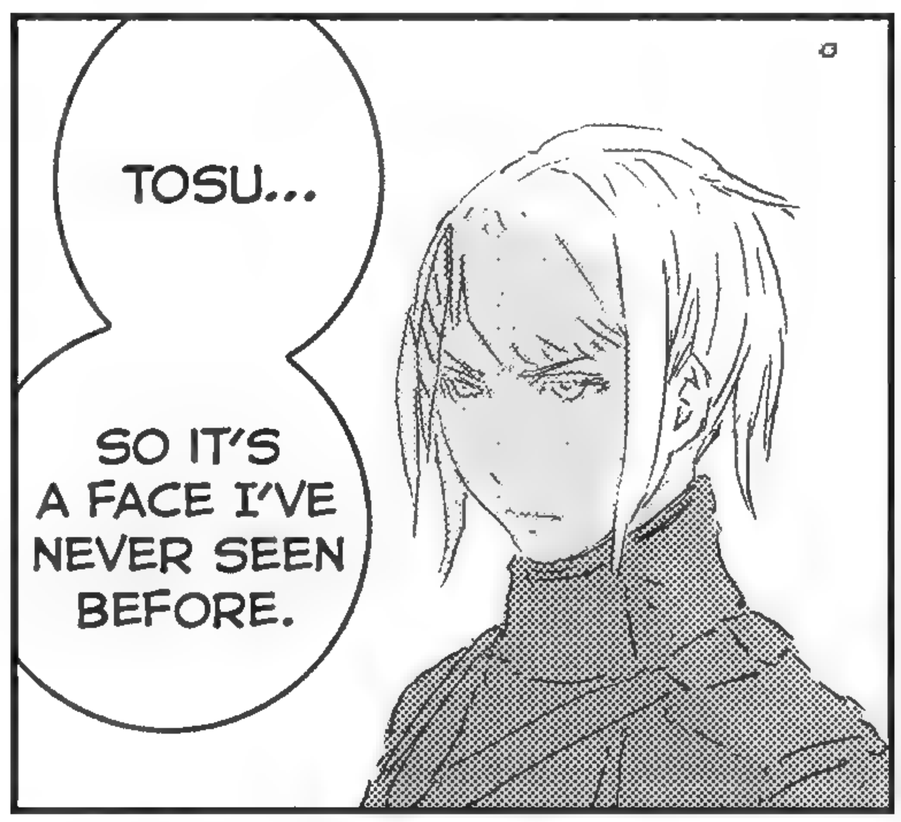

I LIKED PEOPLE WHO HAD BECOME FRAMES.
PERHAPS BECAUSE SUCH A WOMAN RAISED ME,

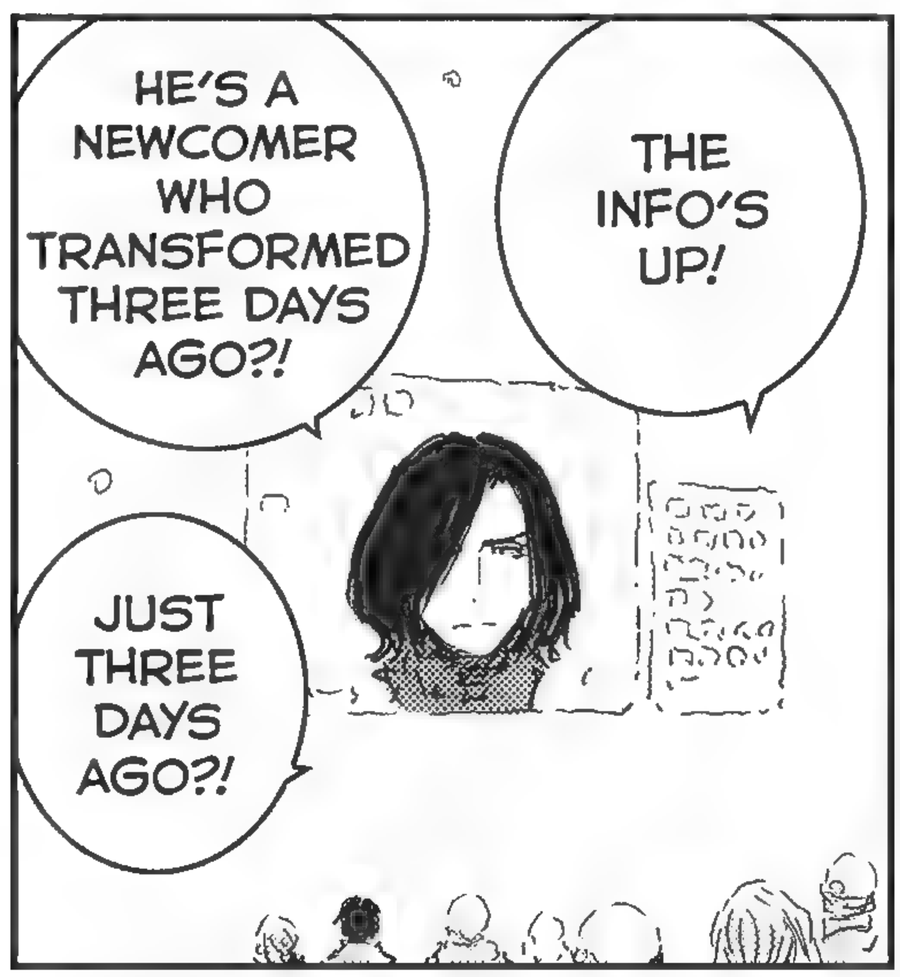

A SINGLE REINCARNATED SLAUGHTERED ALL OF THE FULLY-ARMED FRAME HUNTERS.

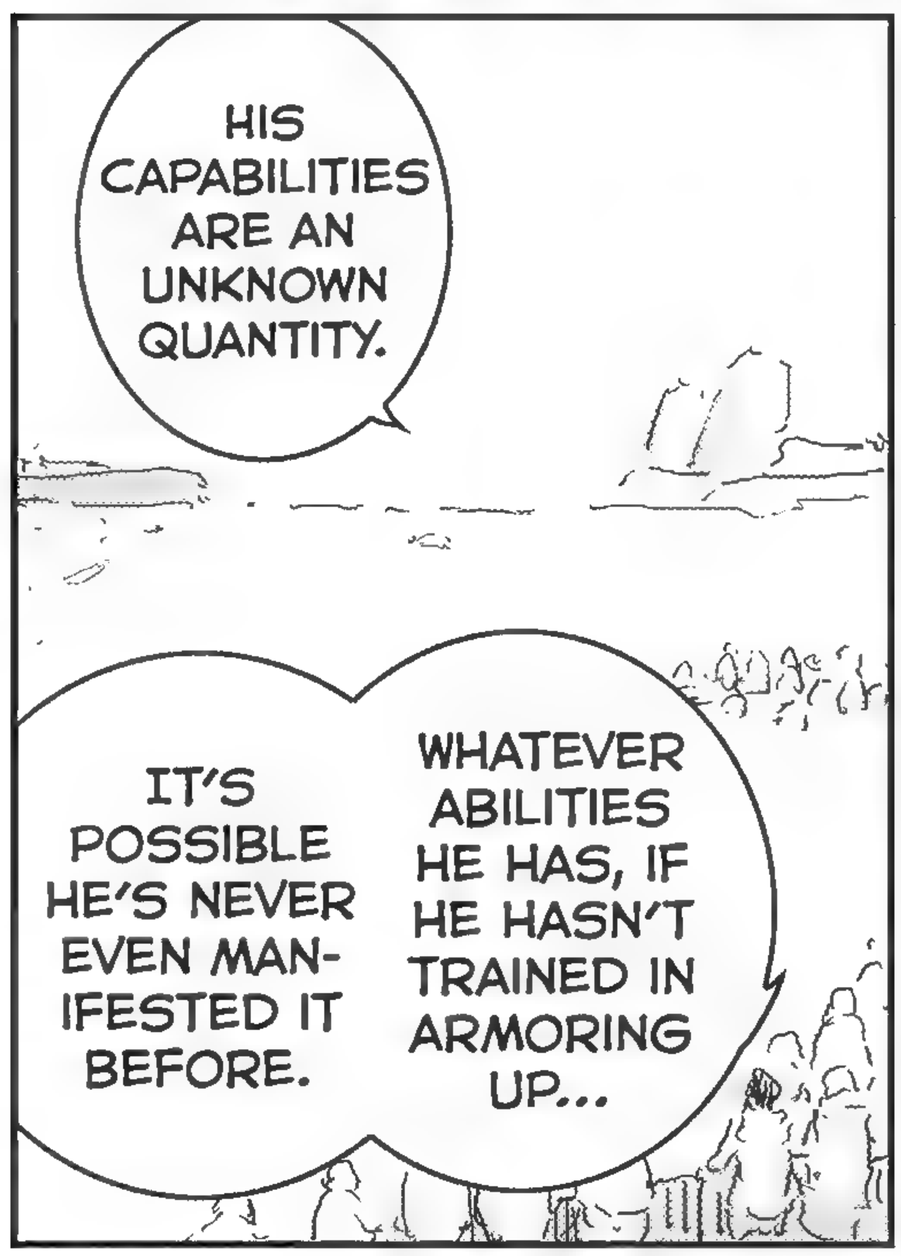
IT WAS REBEDOA THAT FREED ME.

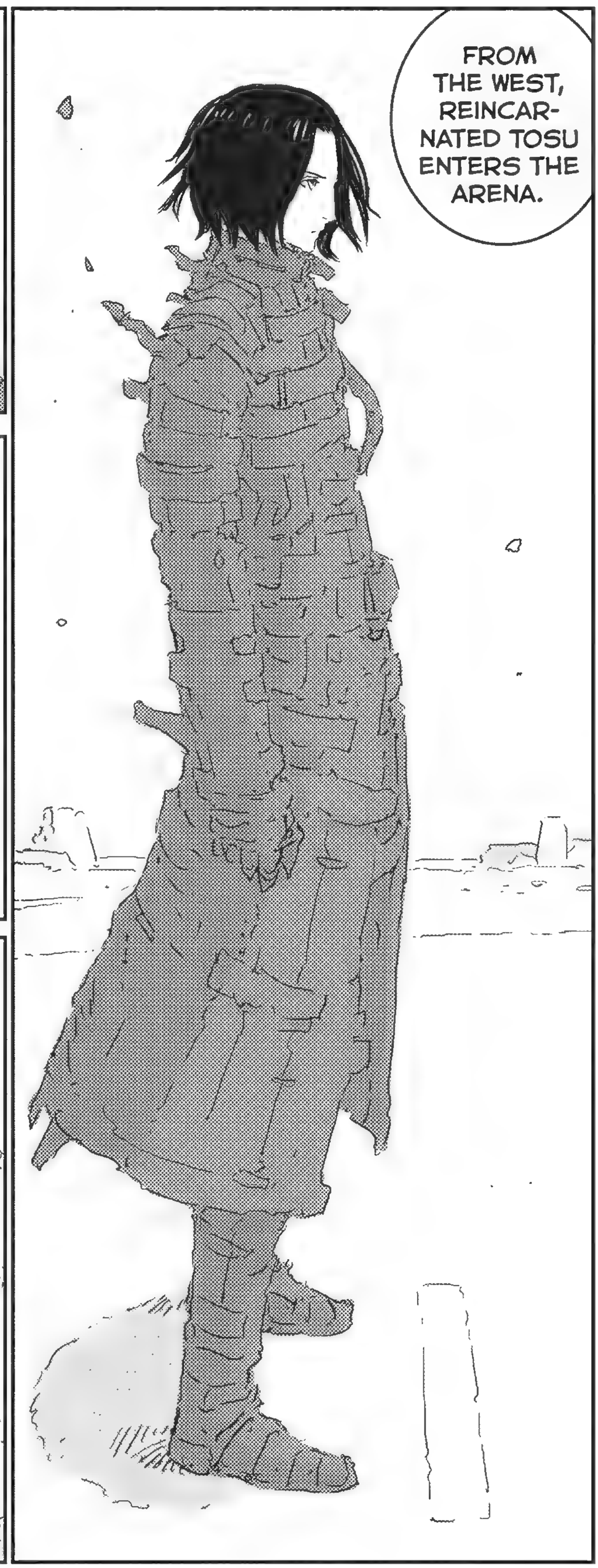


I WILL BECOME A TOP-RANK REINCARNATED AND GAIN SUPER-PRIVILEGES AND THE PLACENTAS OF SEVEN OTHERS HERE AND NOW!
POWER IS EVERY-THING.

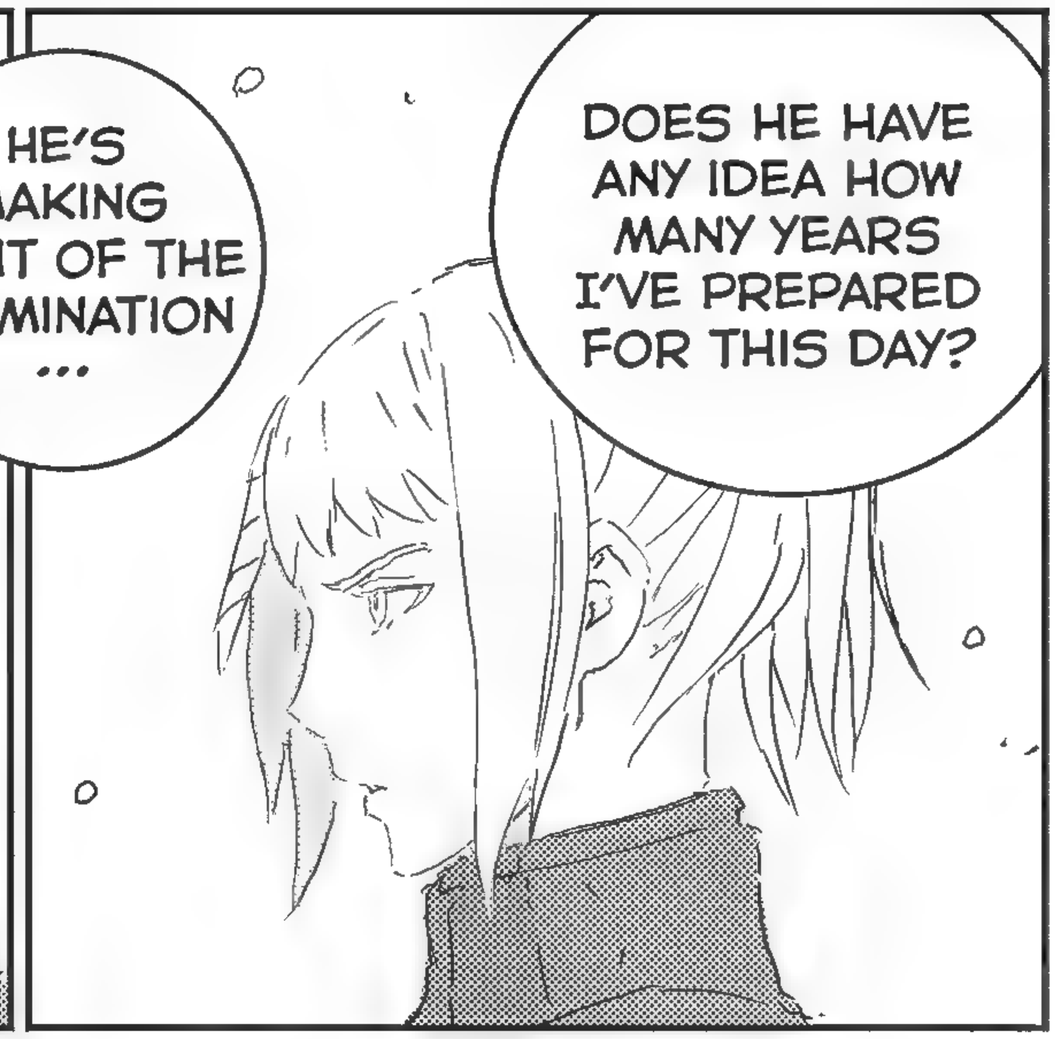

TOSU...
SO IT'S A FACE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

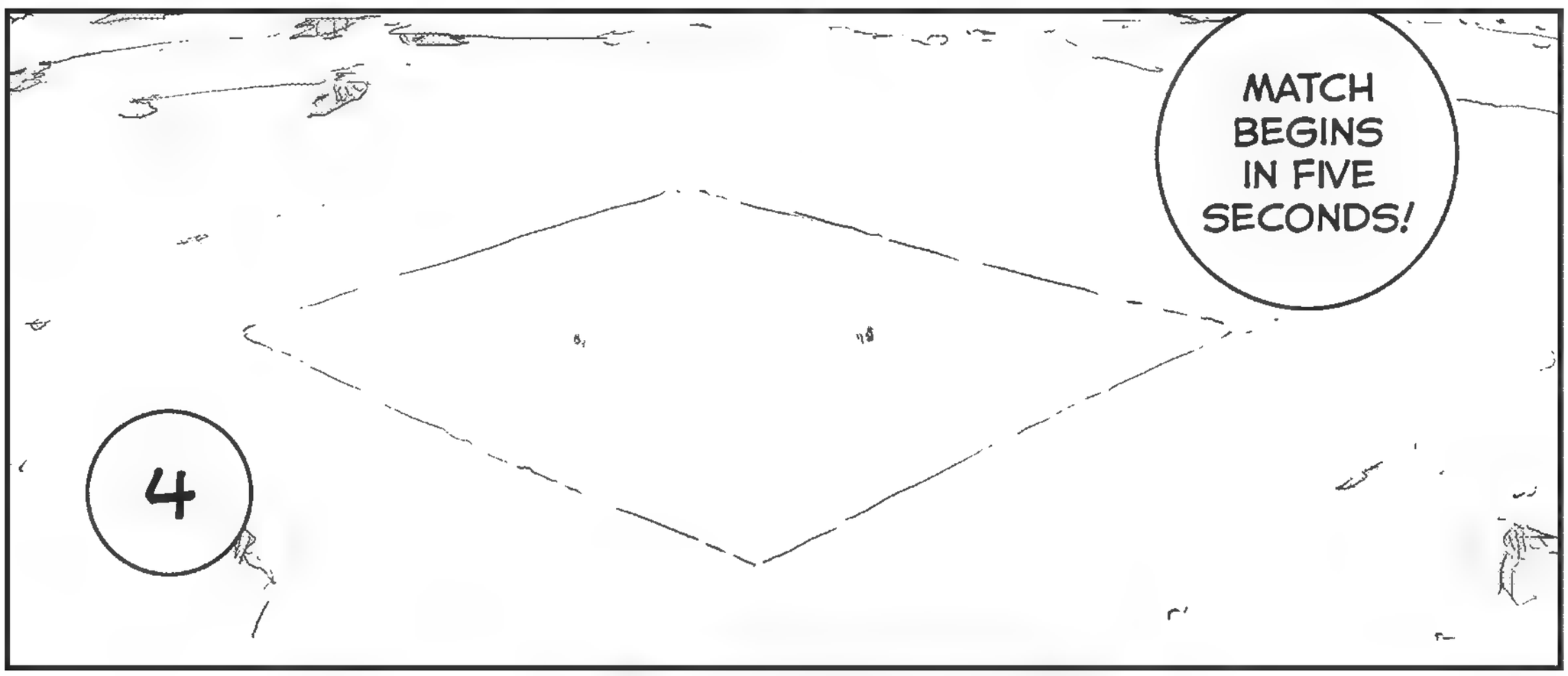

HE'S A NEWCOMER WHO TRANSFORMED THREE DAYS AGO?!
THE INFO'S UP!
JUST THREE DAYS AGO?!

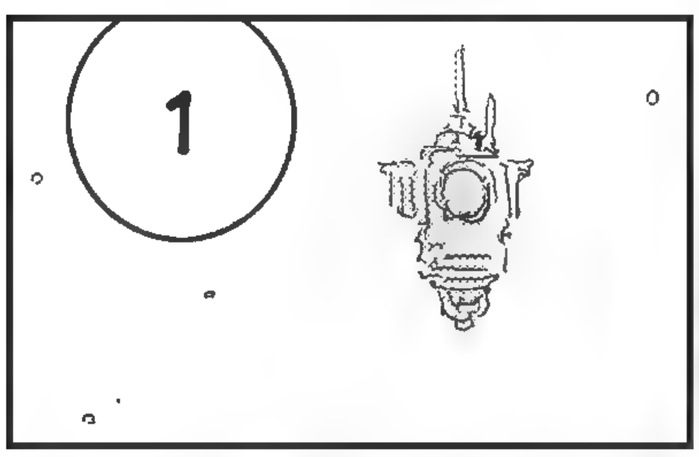

HIS CAPABILITIES ARE AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY.
IT'S POSSIBLE HE'S NEVER EVEN MANIFESTED IT BEFORE.
WHATEVER ABILITIES HE HAS, IF HE HASN'T TRAINED IN ARMORING UP...


FROM THE WEST, REINCARNATED TOSU ENTERS THE ARENA.

HE'S MAKING LIGHT OF THE EXAMINATION ...


DOES HE HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY YEARS I'VE PREPARED FOR THIS DAY?


MATCH BEGINS IN FIVE SECONDS!
4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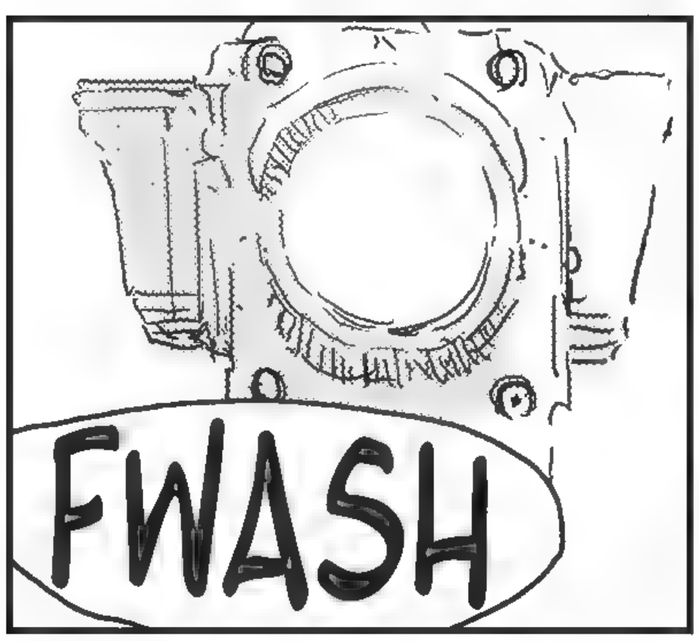
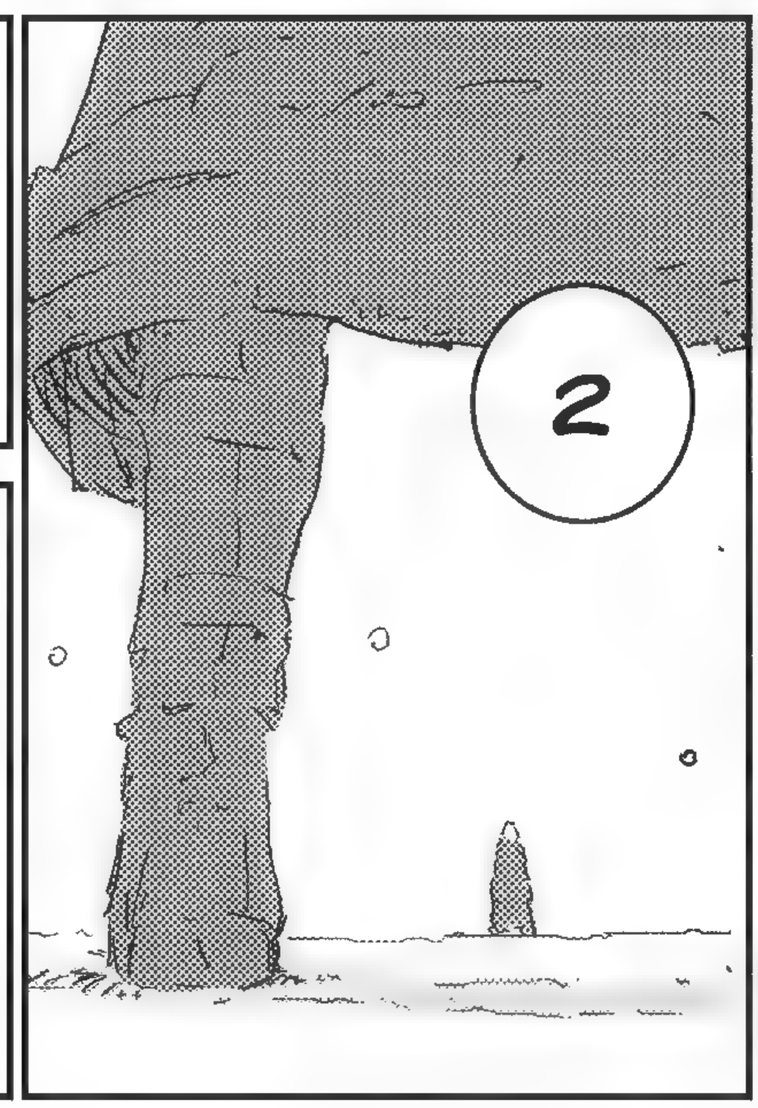
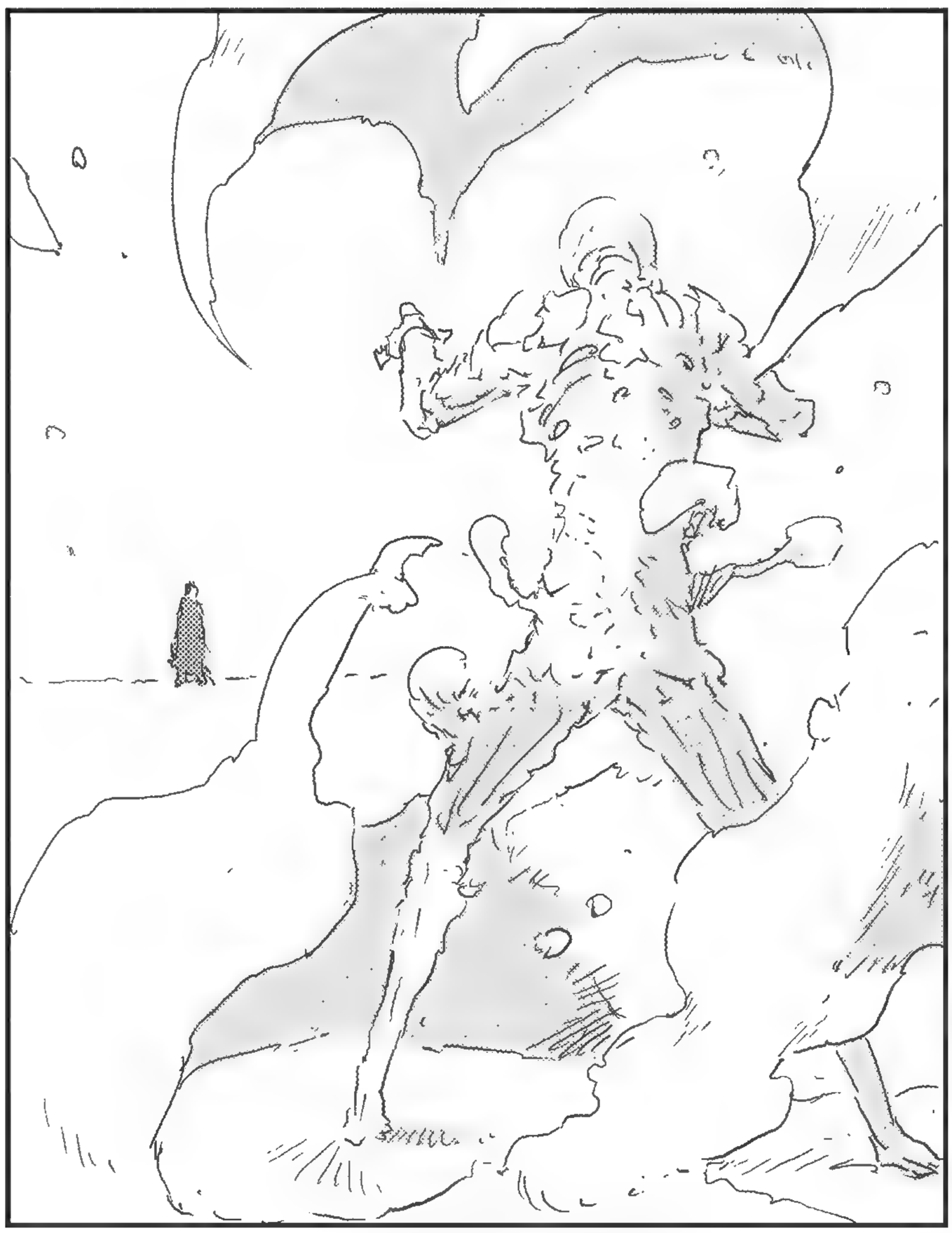
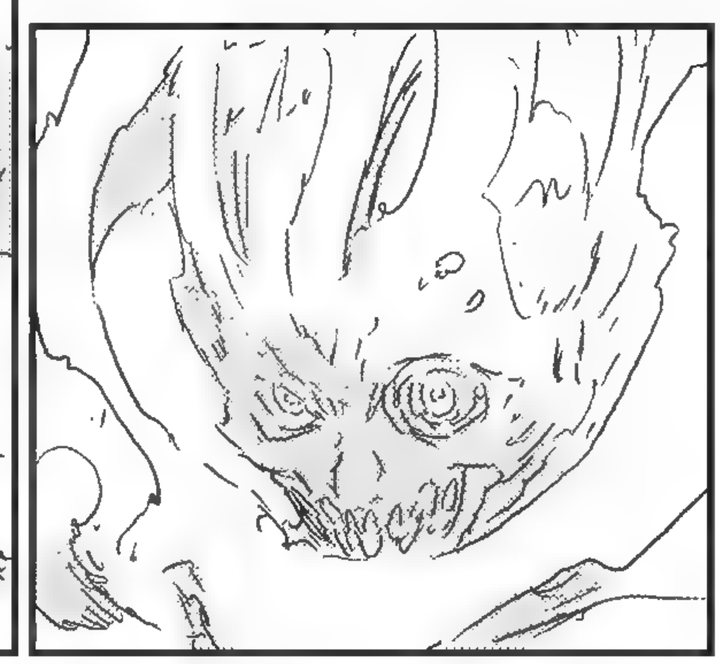

FWASH


2

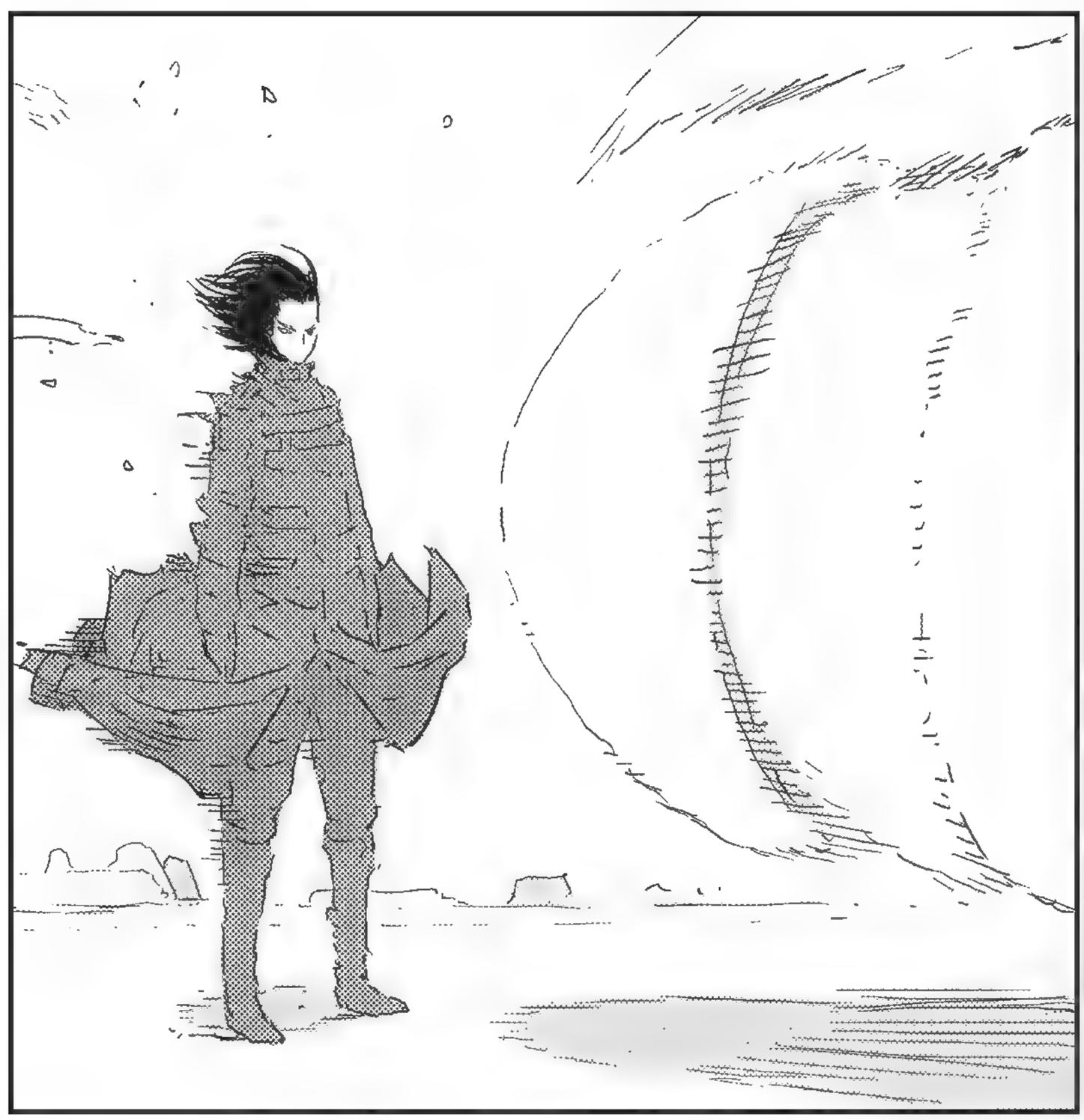
3



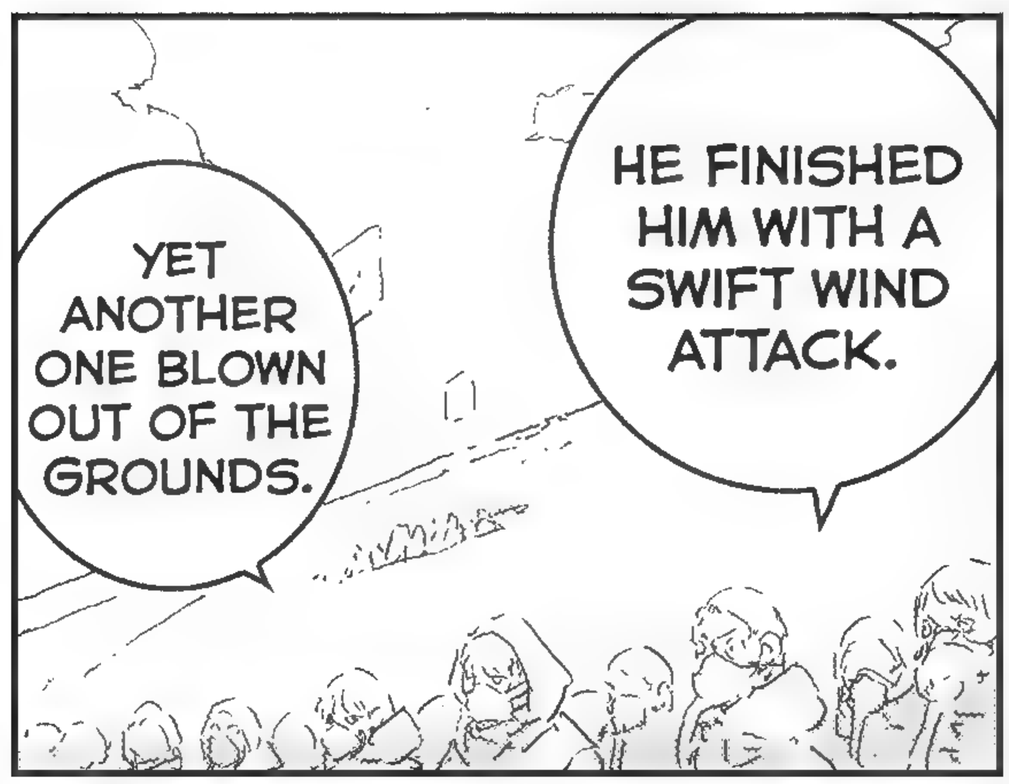
BEGIN !!

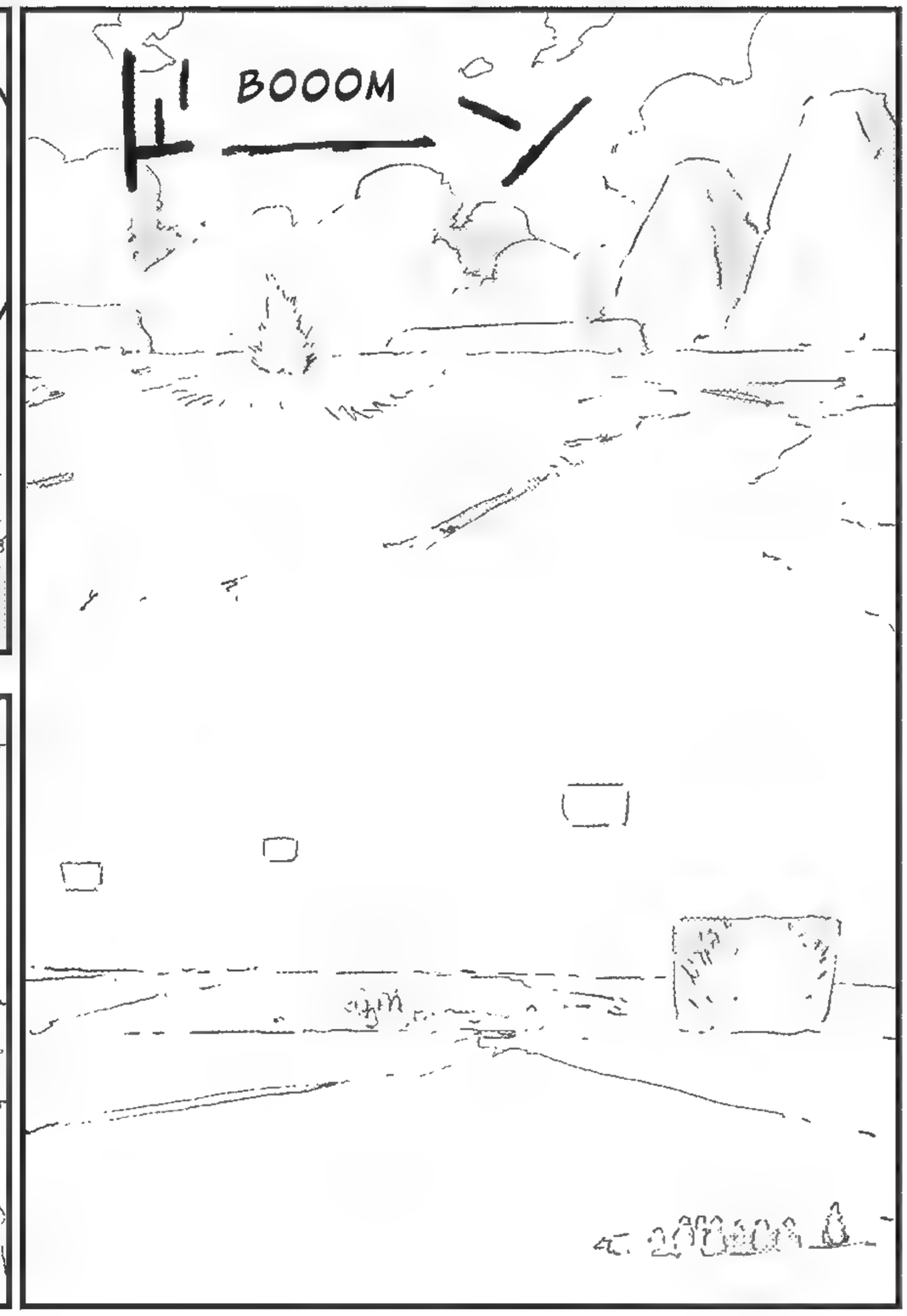


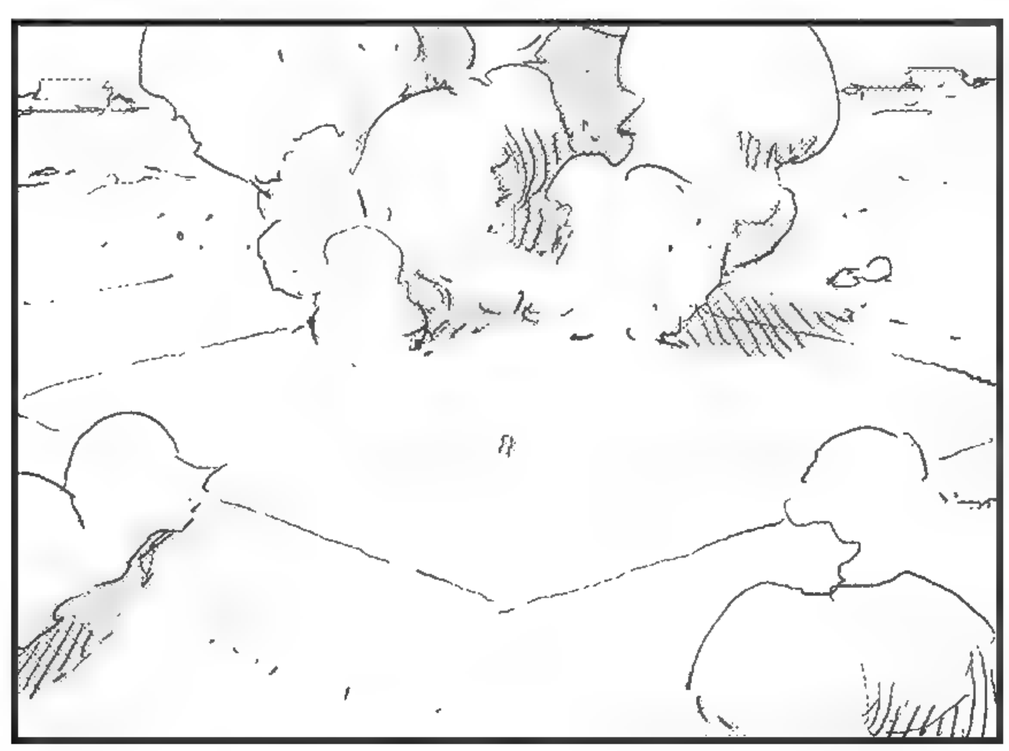
I'VE ALREADY WON.
NO SIGN OF ARMORING UP AT ALL!

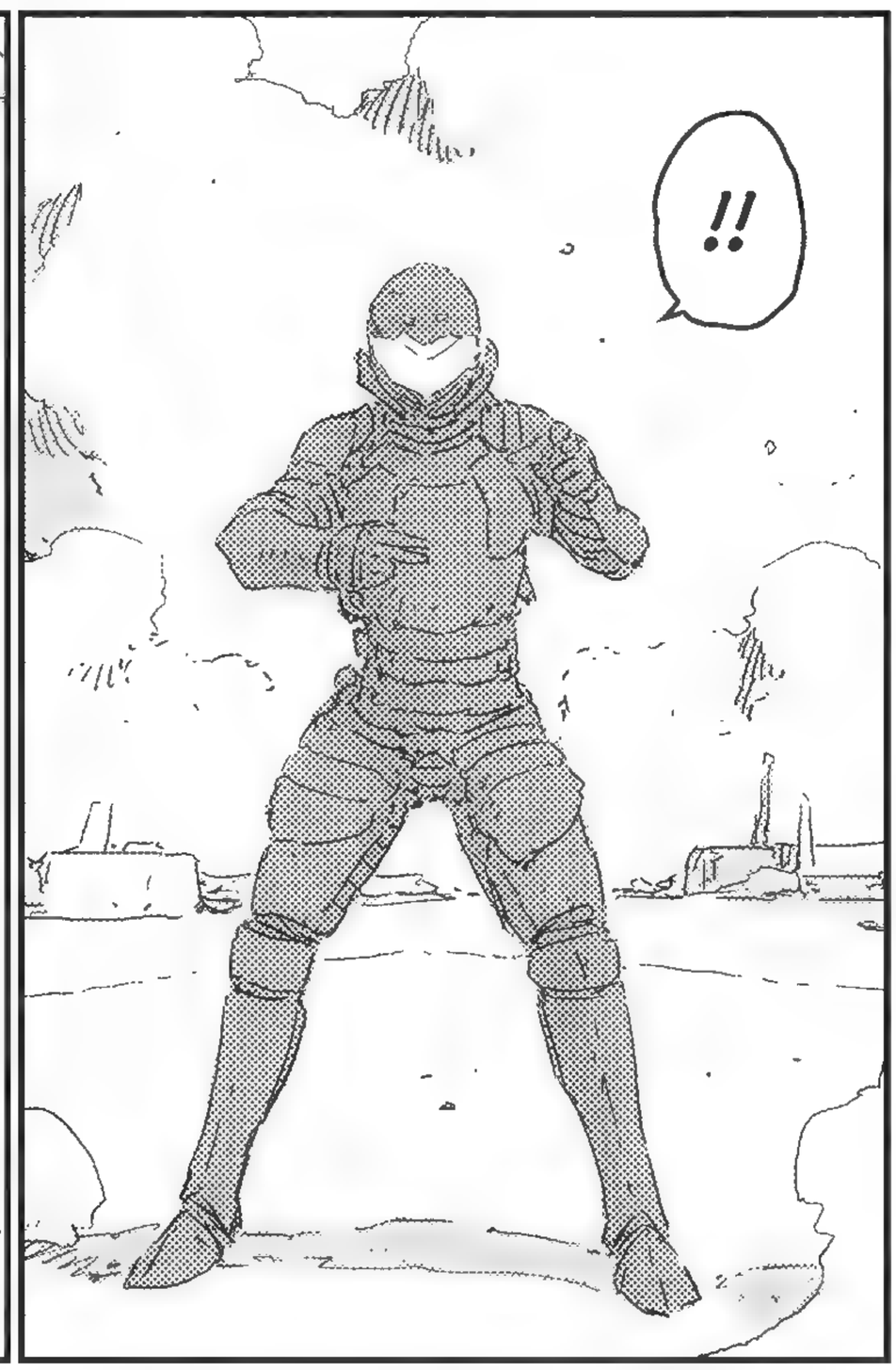


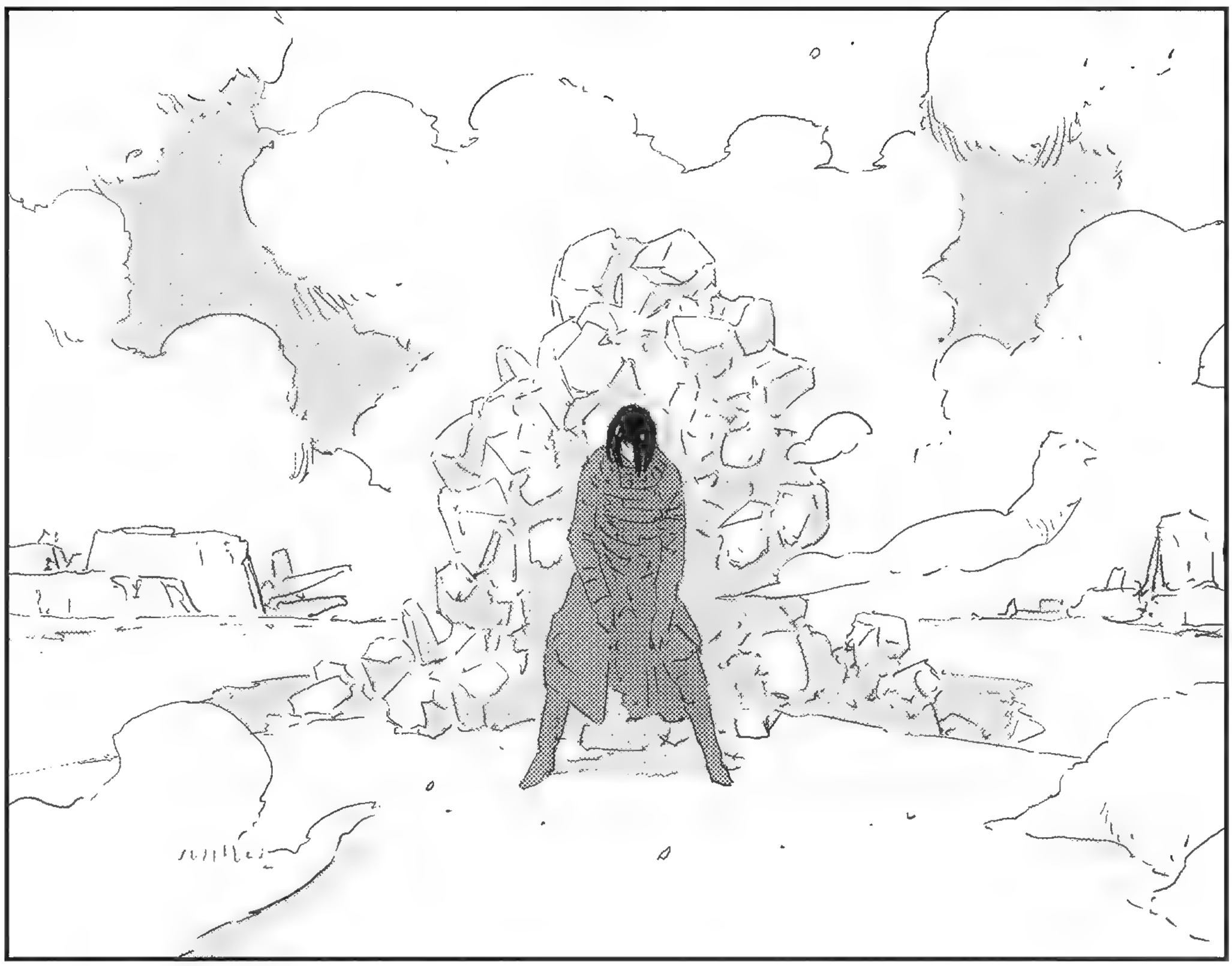
VWO
OSH

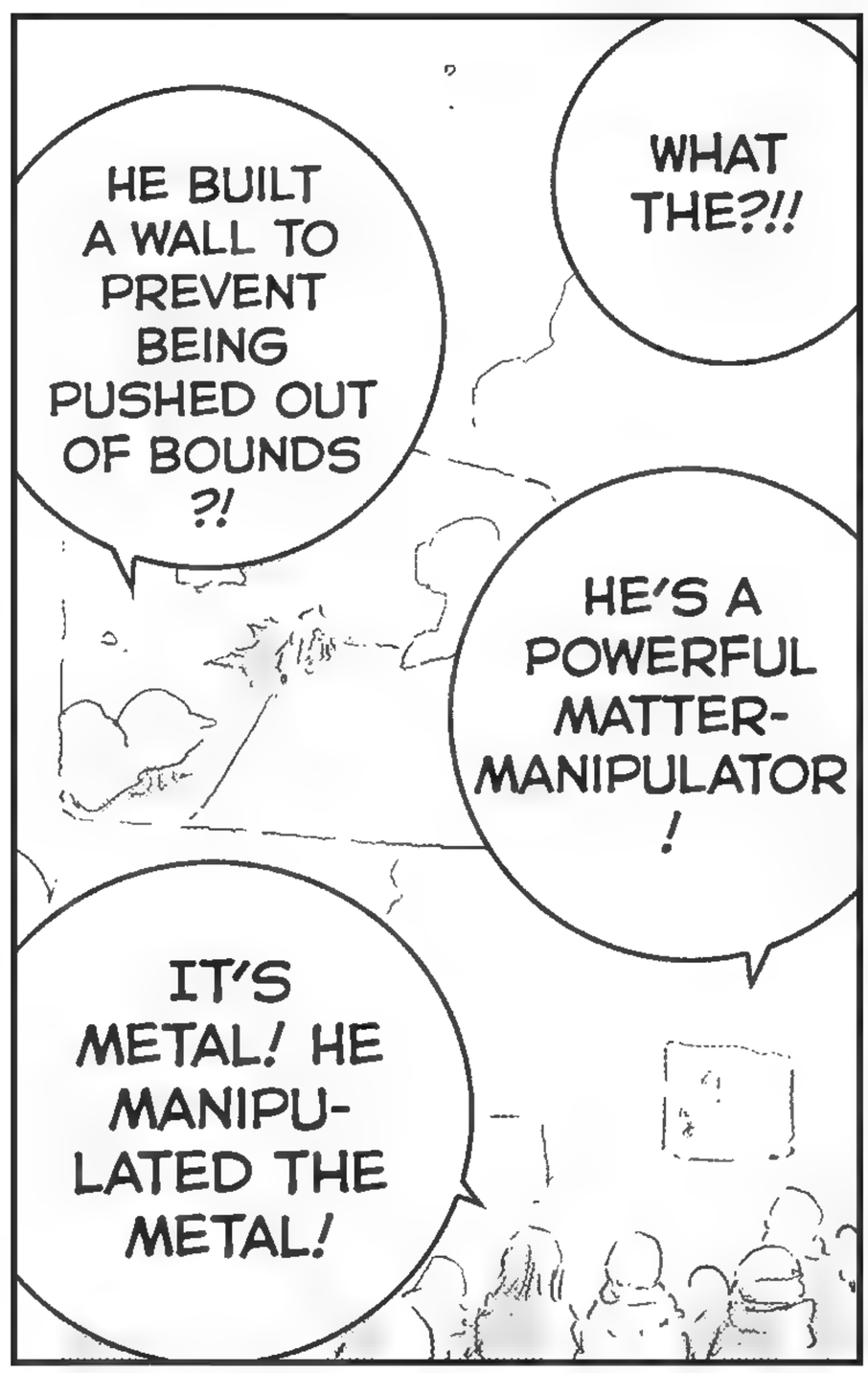

YET ANOTHER ONE BLOWN OUT OF THE GROUNDS.
HE FINISHED HIM WITH A SWIFT WIND ATTACK.

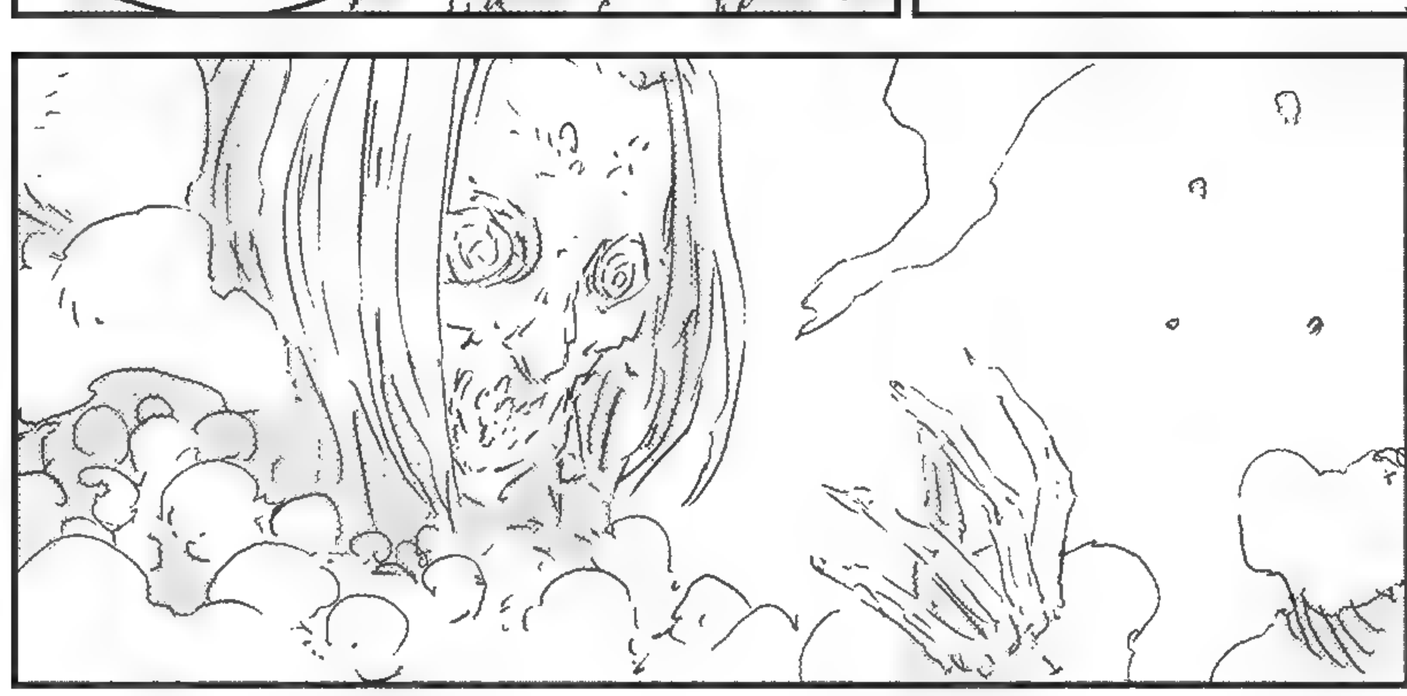

BOOOM

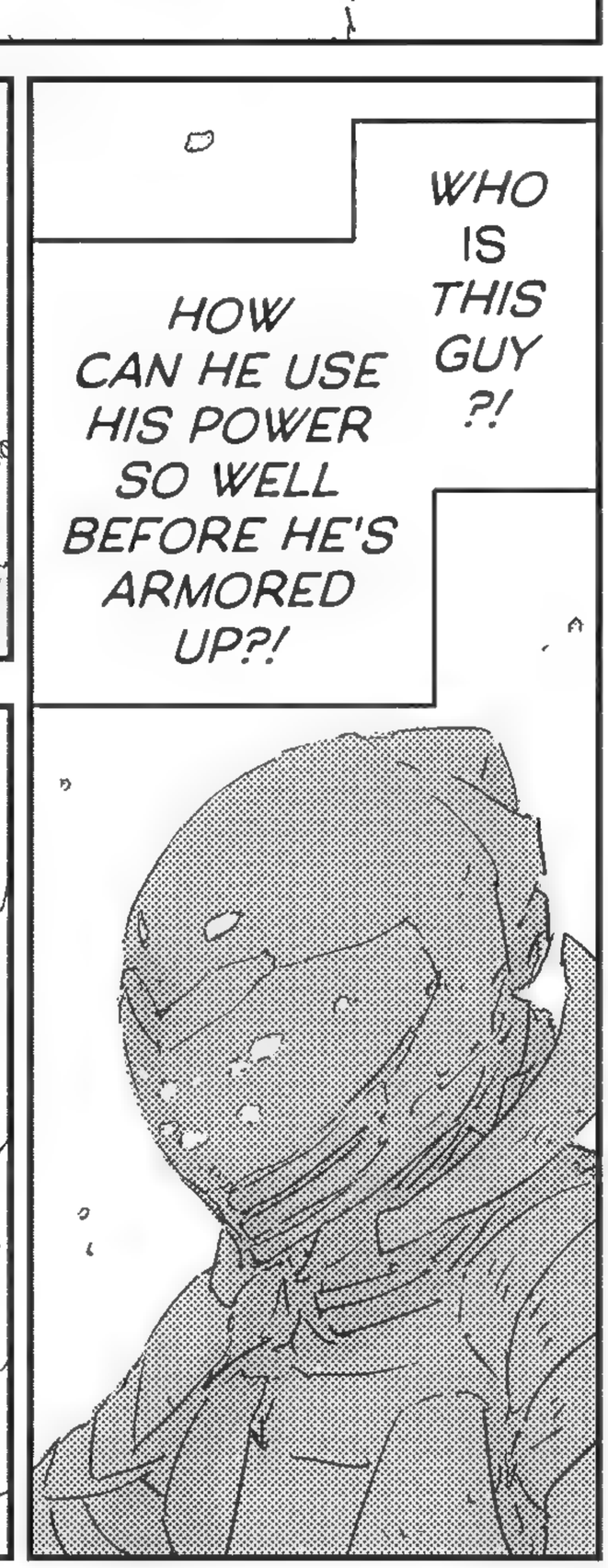


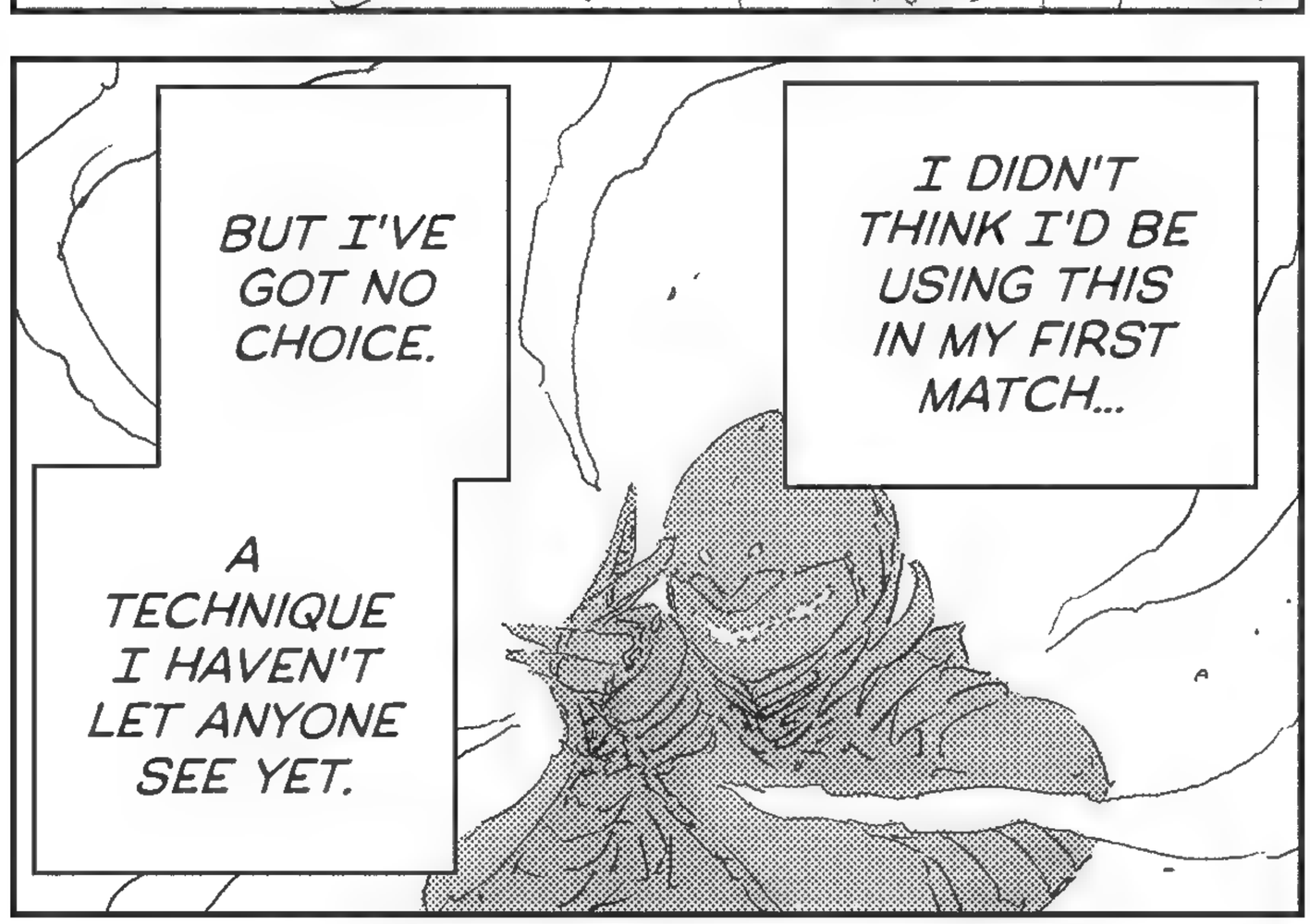




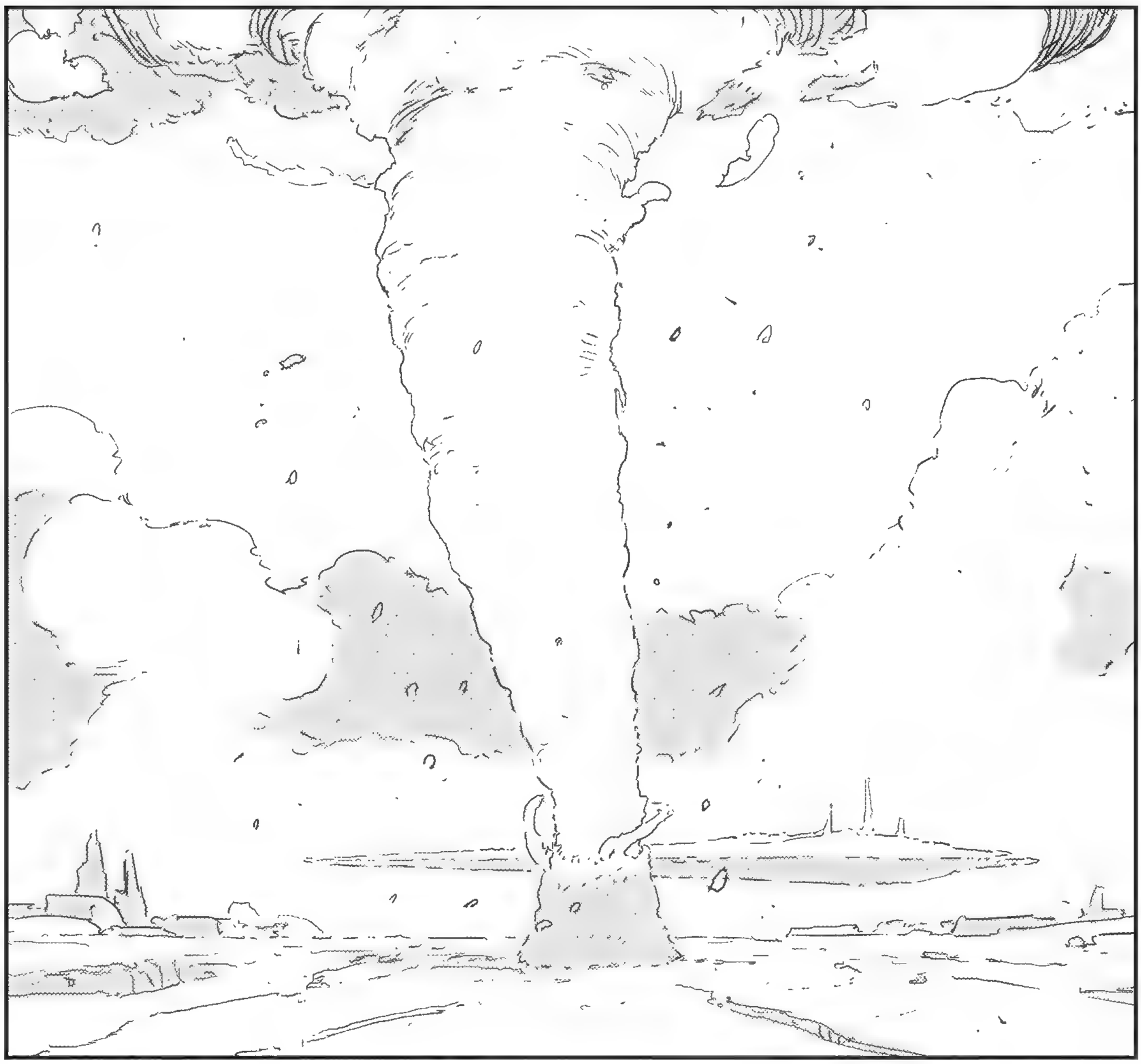

HE BUILT A WALL TO PREVENT BEING PUSHED OUT OF BOUNDS ?!
WHAT THE?!!
HE'S A POWERFUL MATTER-MANIPULATOR !
IT'S METAL! HE MANIPU-LATED THE METAL!

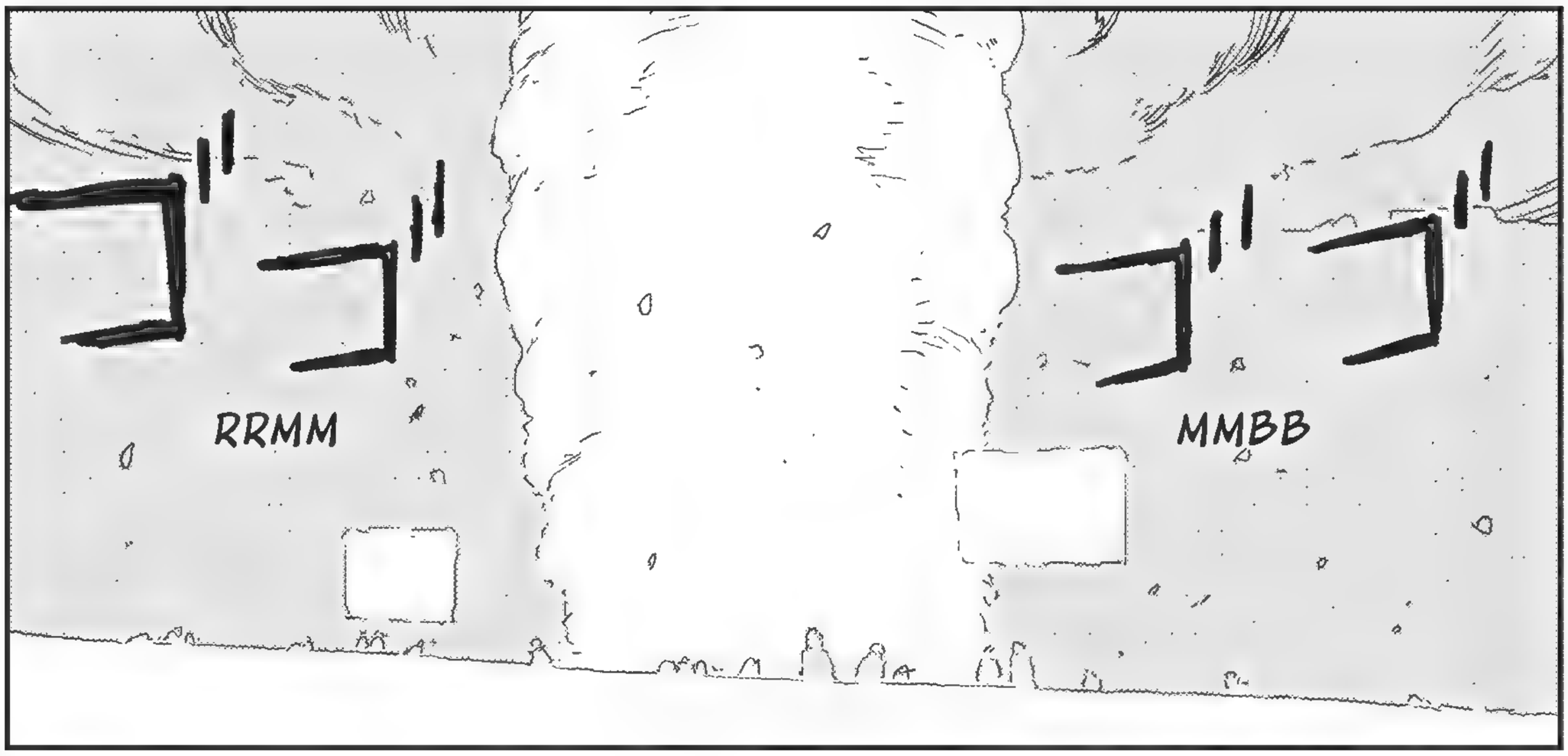


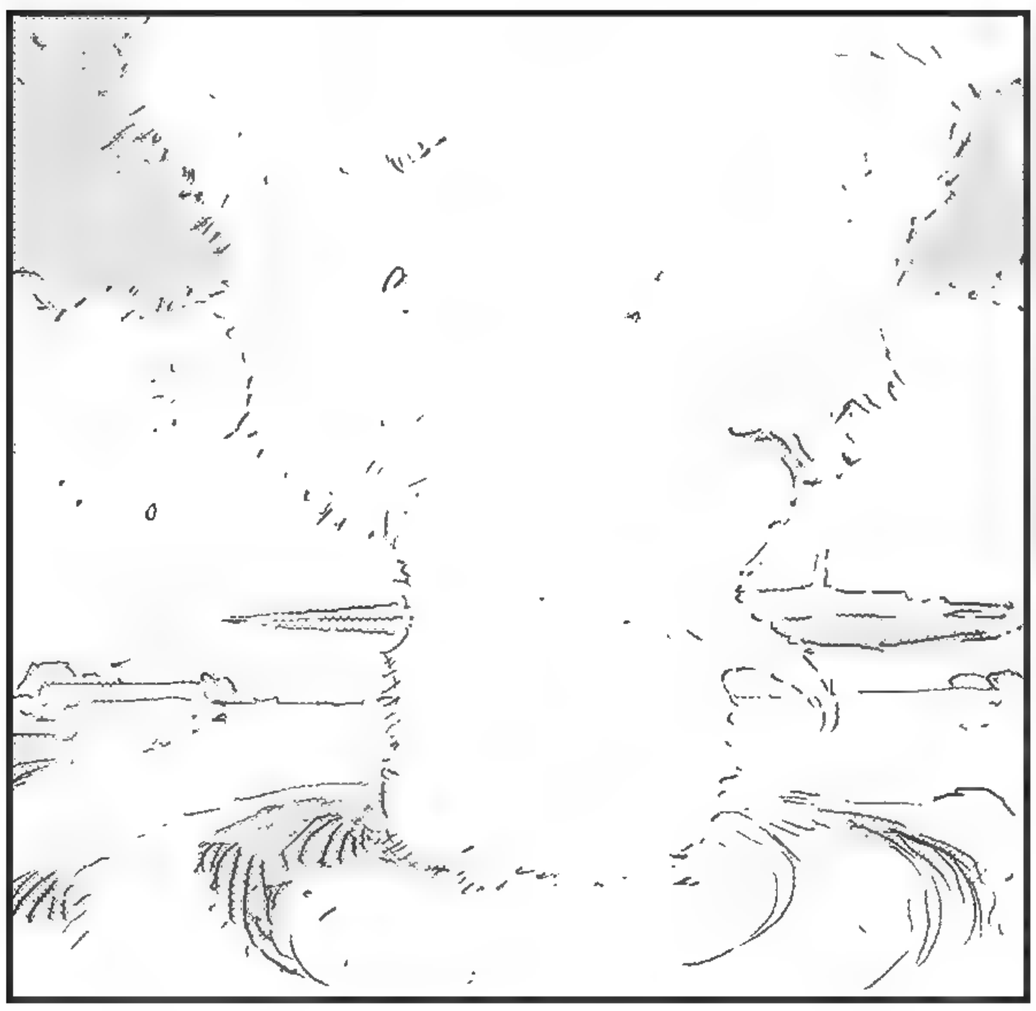

WHO IS THIS GUY ?!
HOW CAN HE USE HIS POWER SO WELL BEFORE HE'S ARMORED UP?!

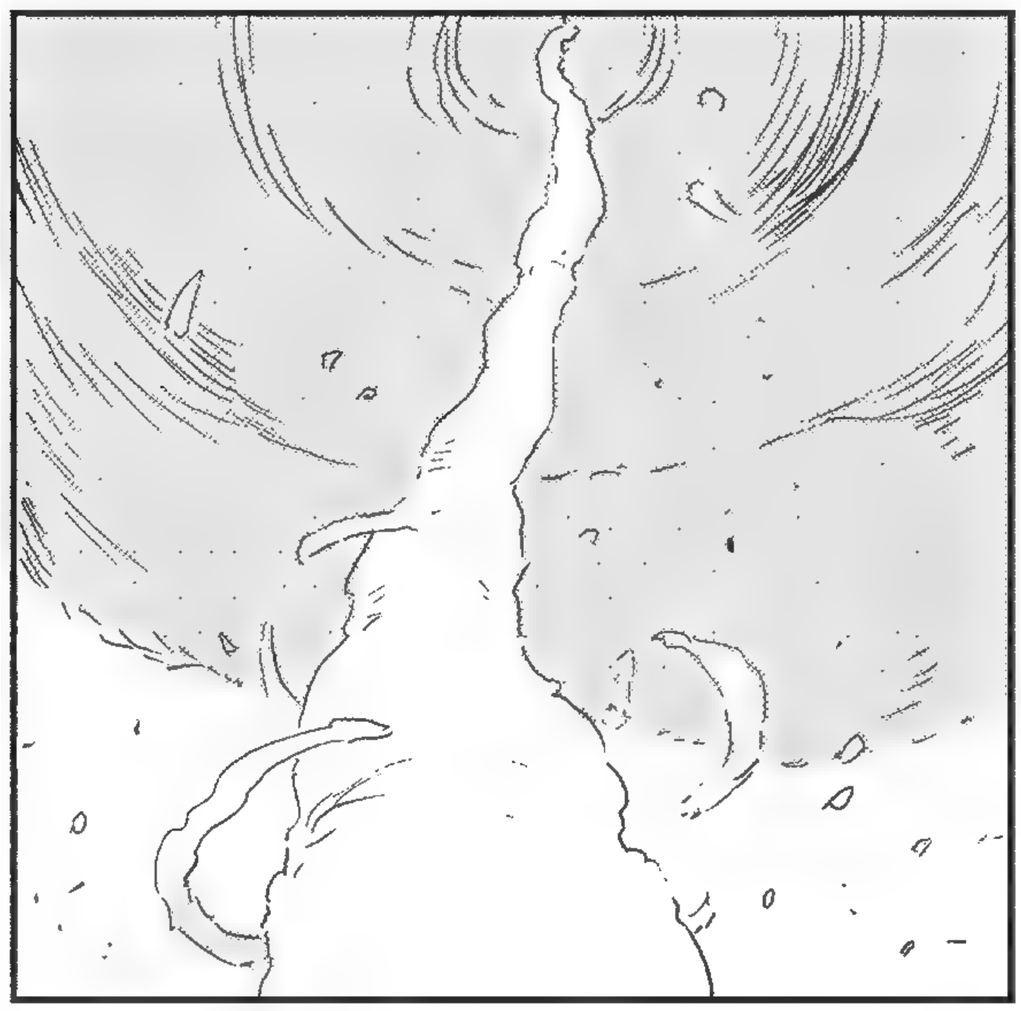

BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE USING THIS IN MY FIRST MATCH...
A TECHNIQUE I HAVEN'T LET ANYONE SEE YET.

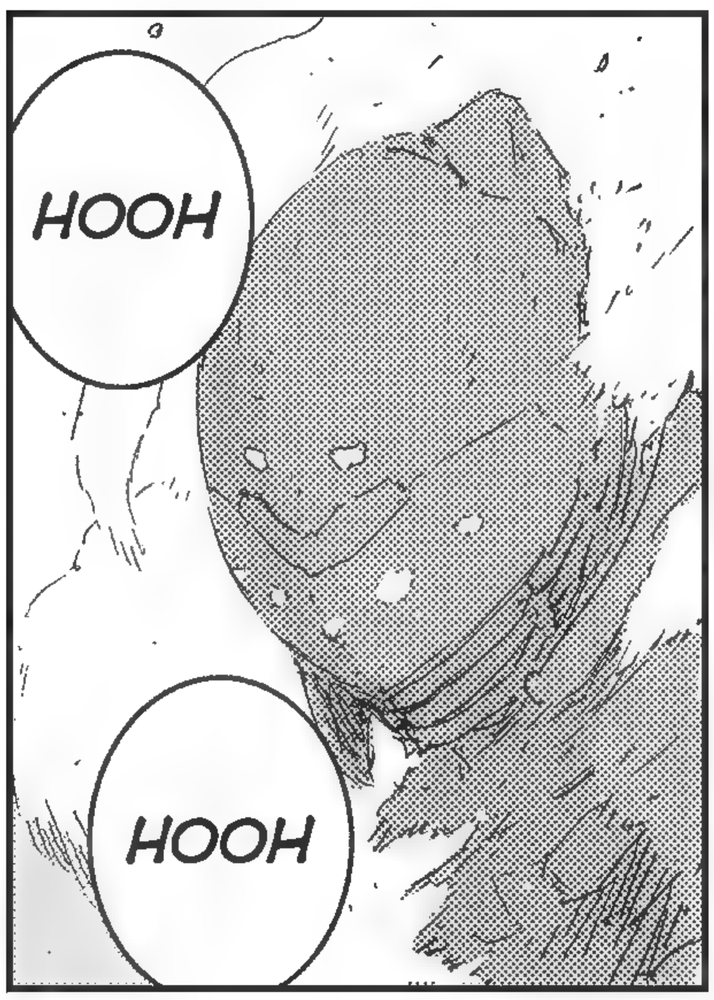
VWOOSH

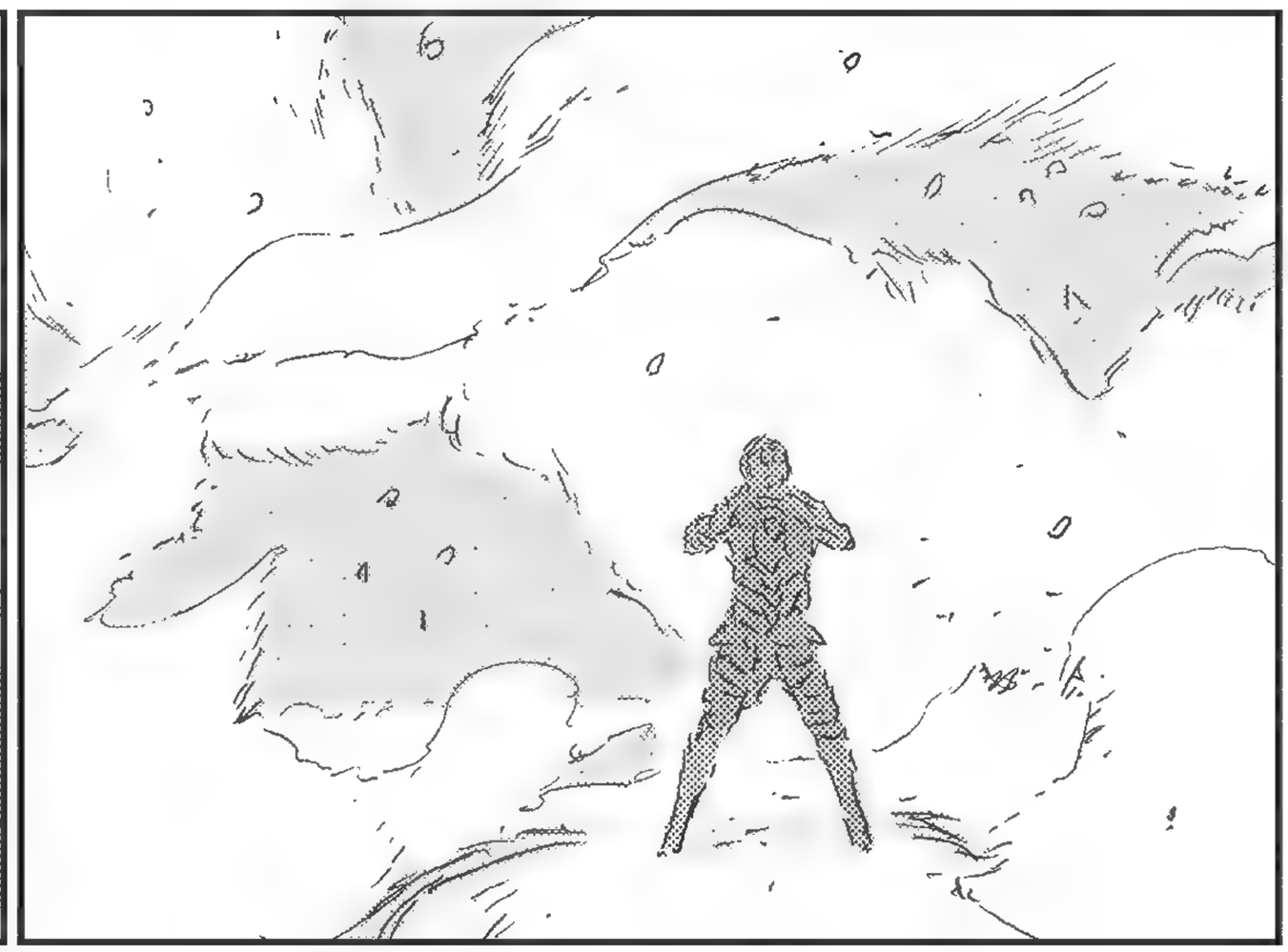


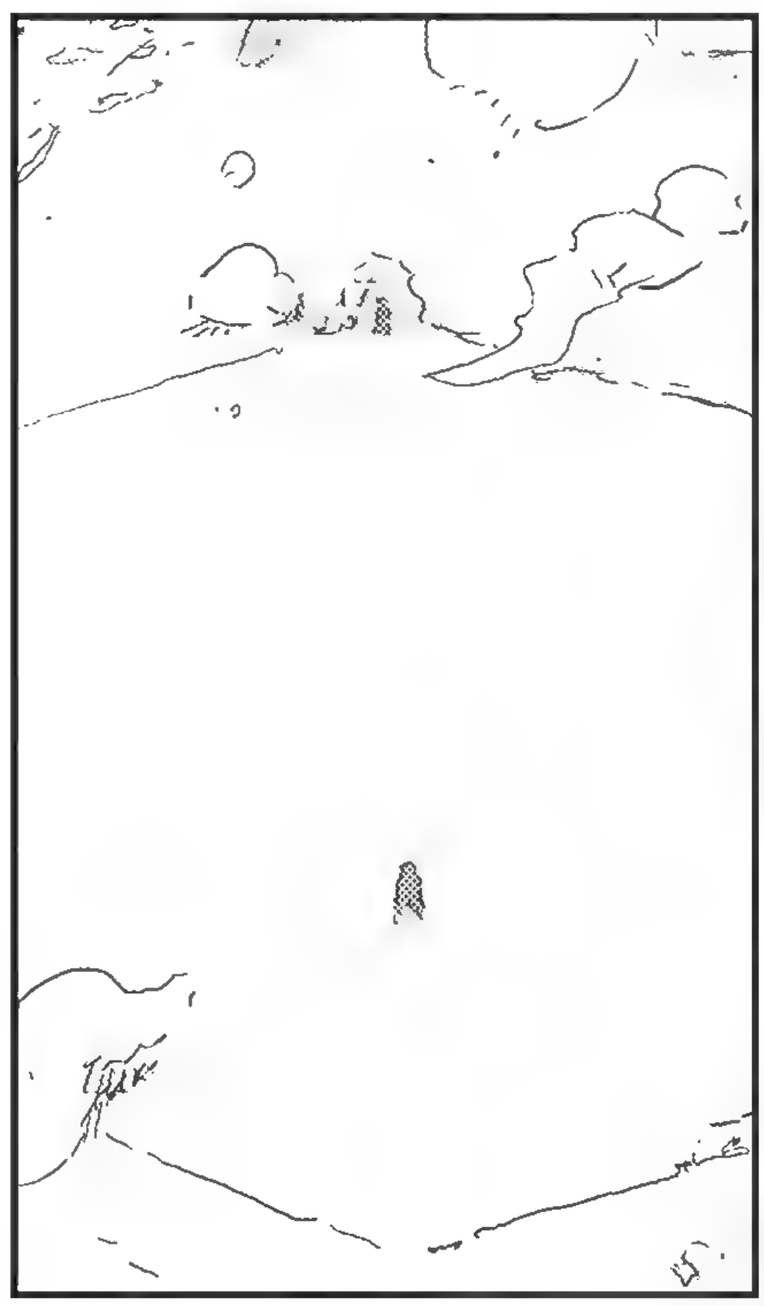

RRMM
MMBB

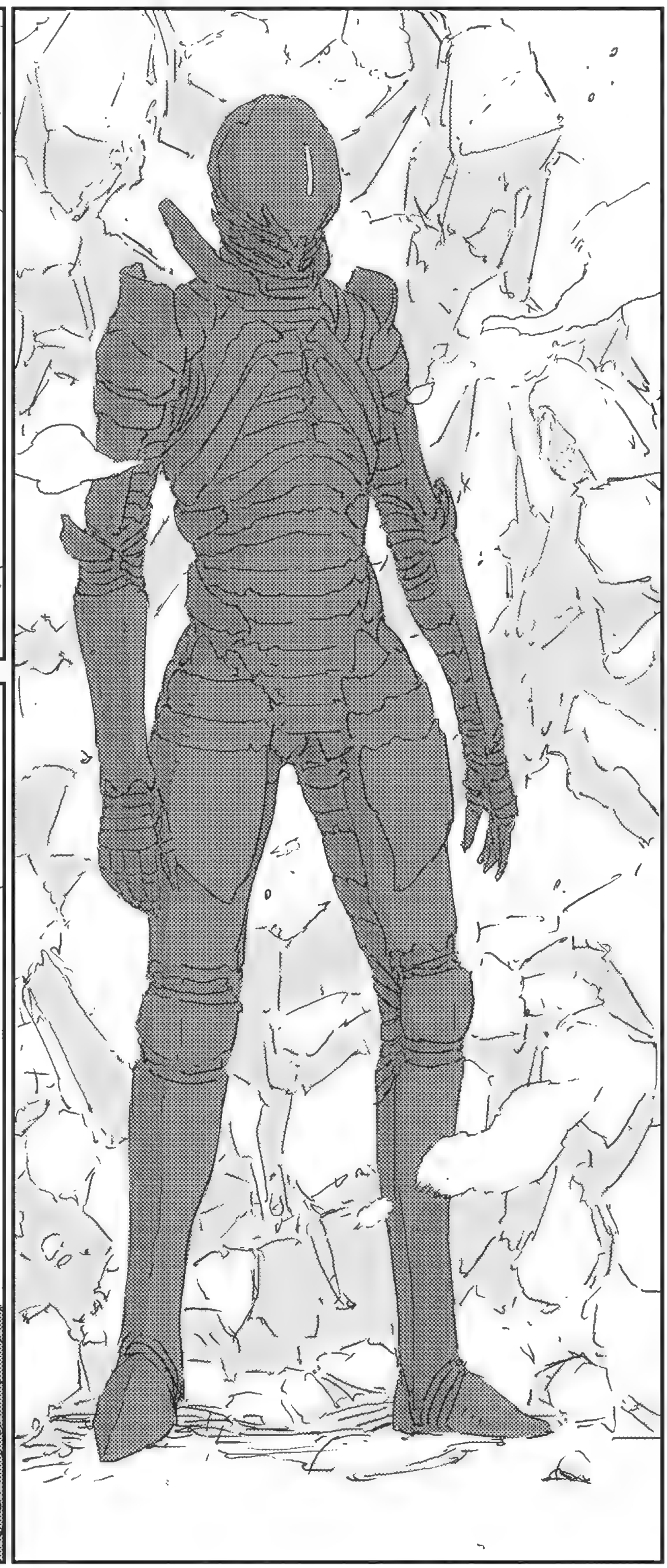




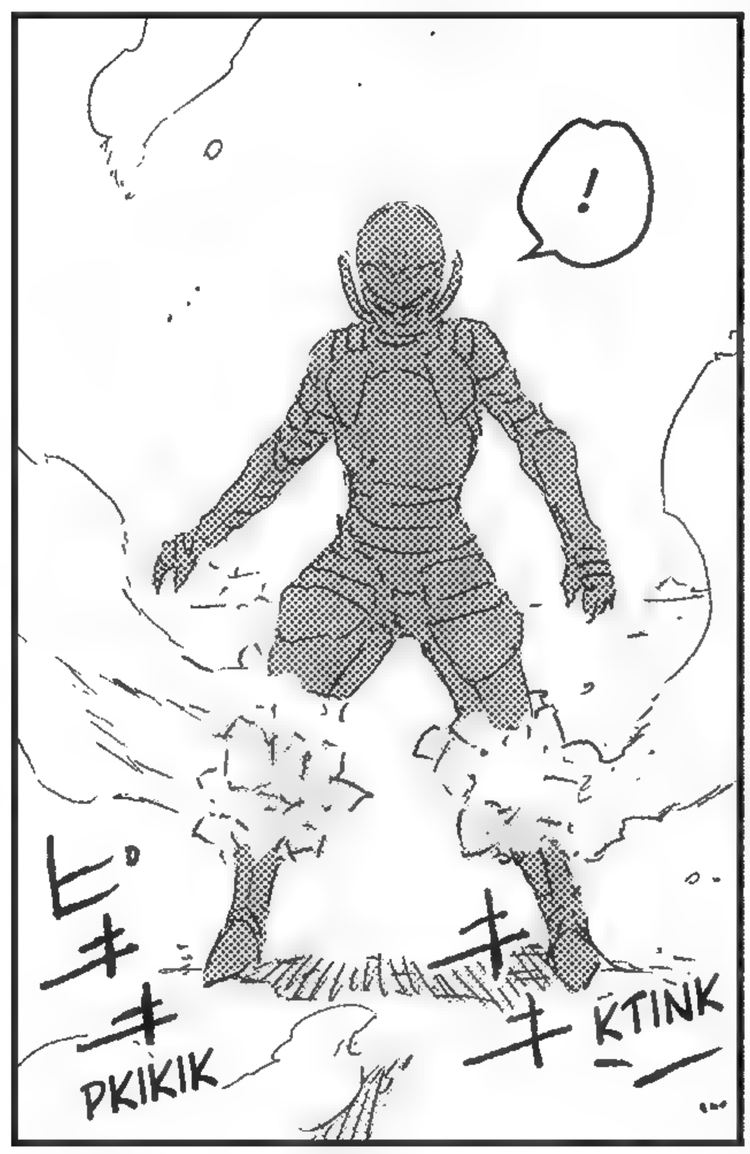

HOOH
HOOH







HE WITH-STOOD IT...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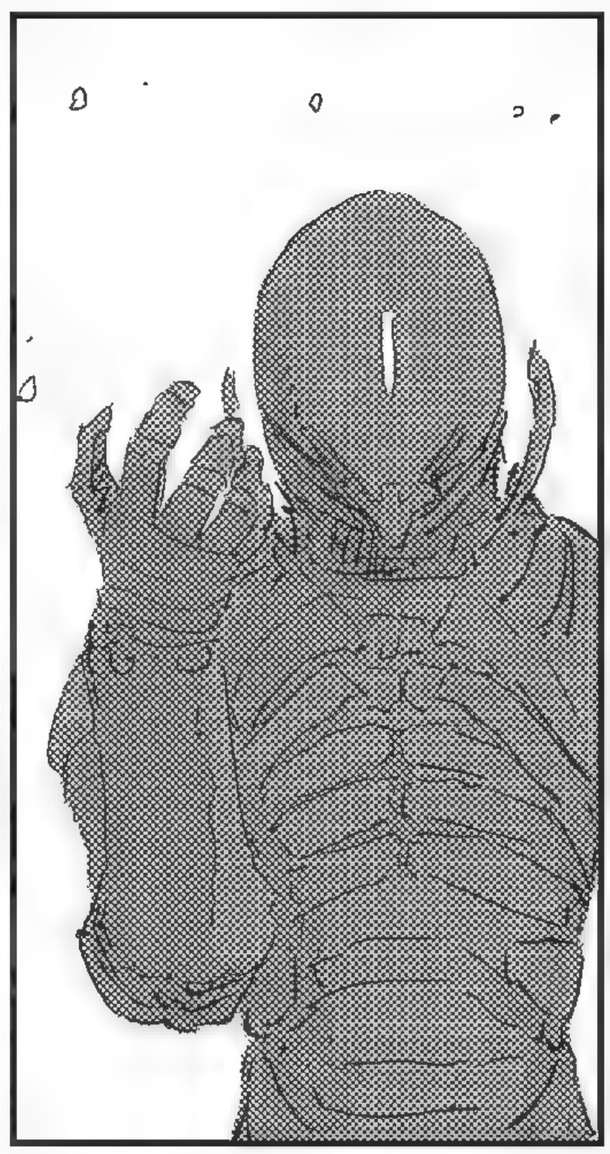
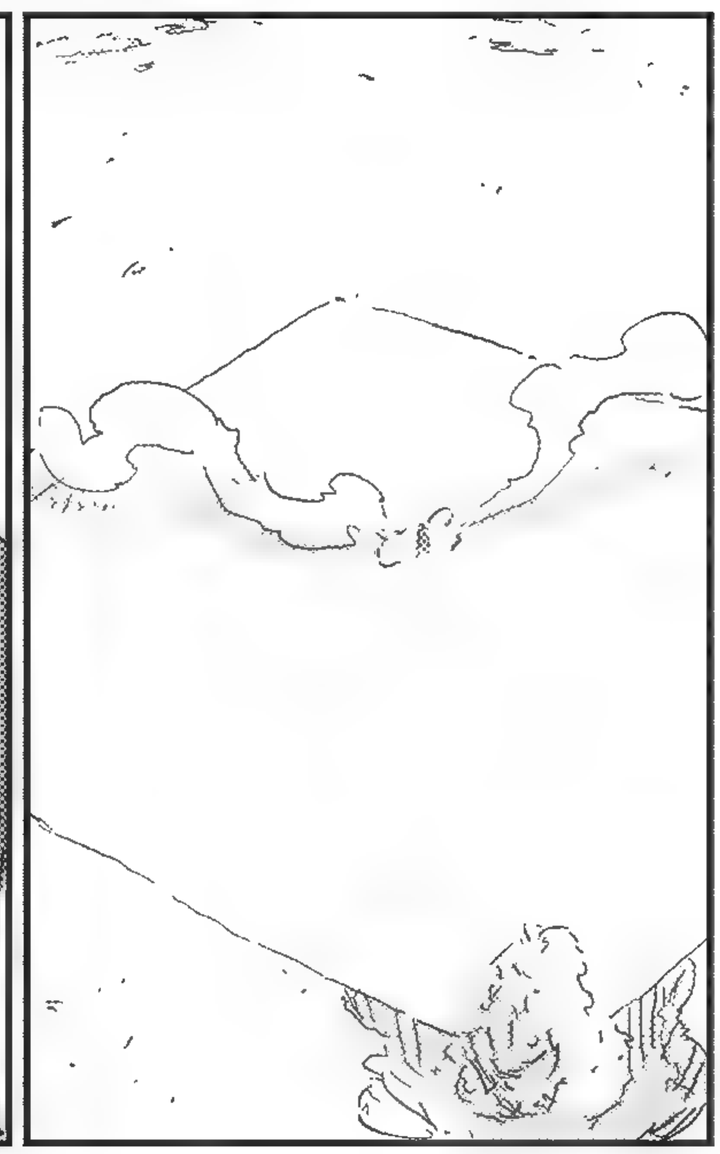
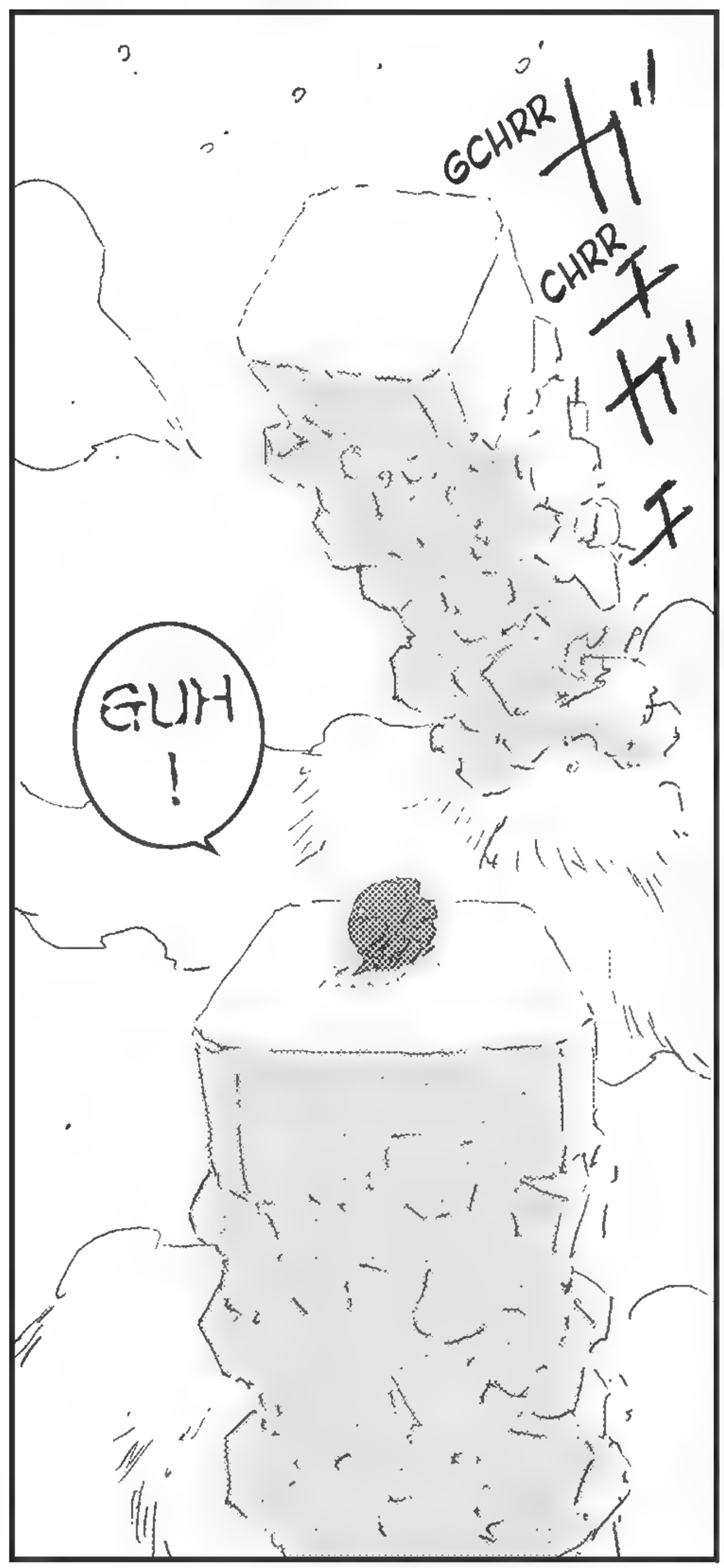
ピキキ
PKIKIK
キキ
KTINK






GCHRR
CHRR
キキキ
GUH!

AUGH!
ピ
PKIK
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RNGH!
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PKIKIK
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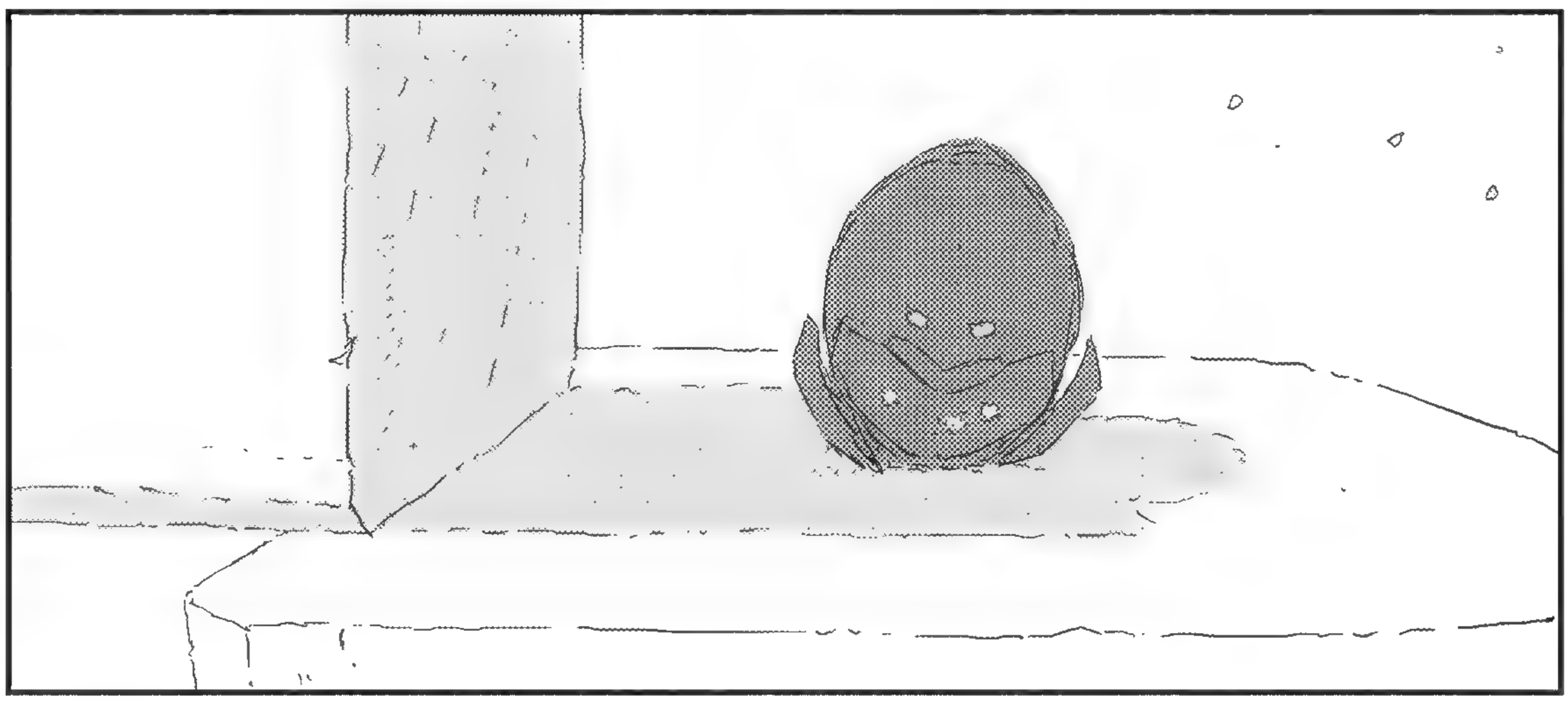
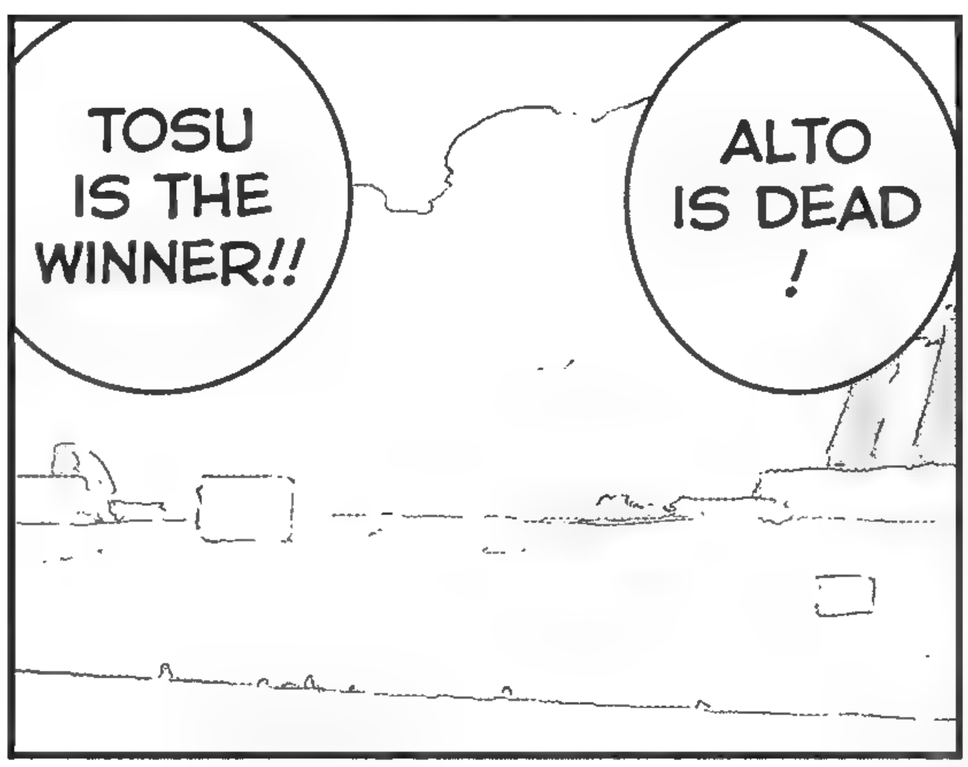
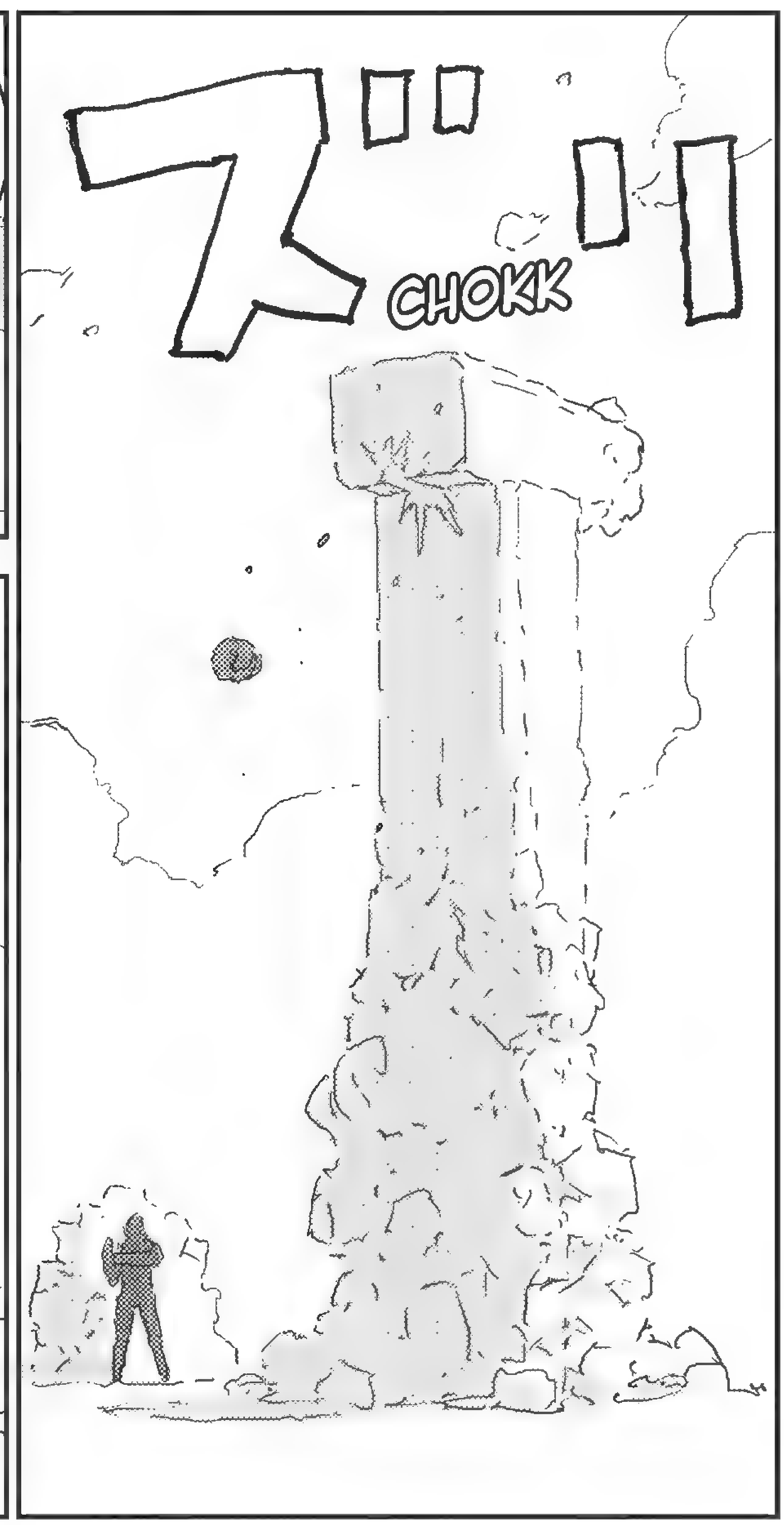
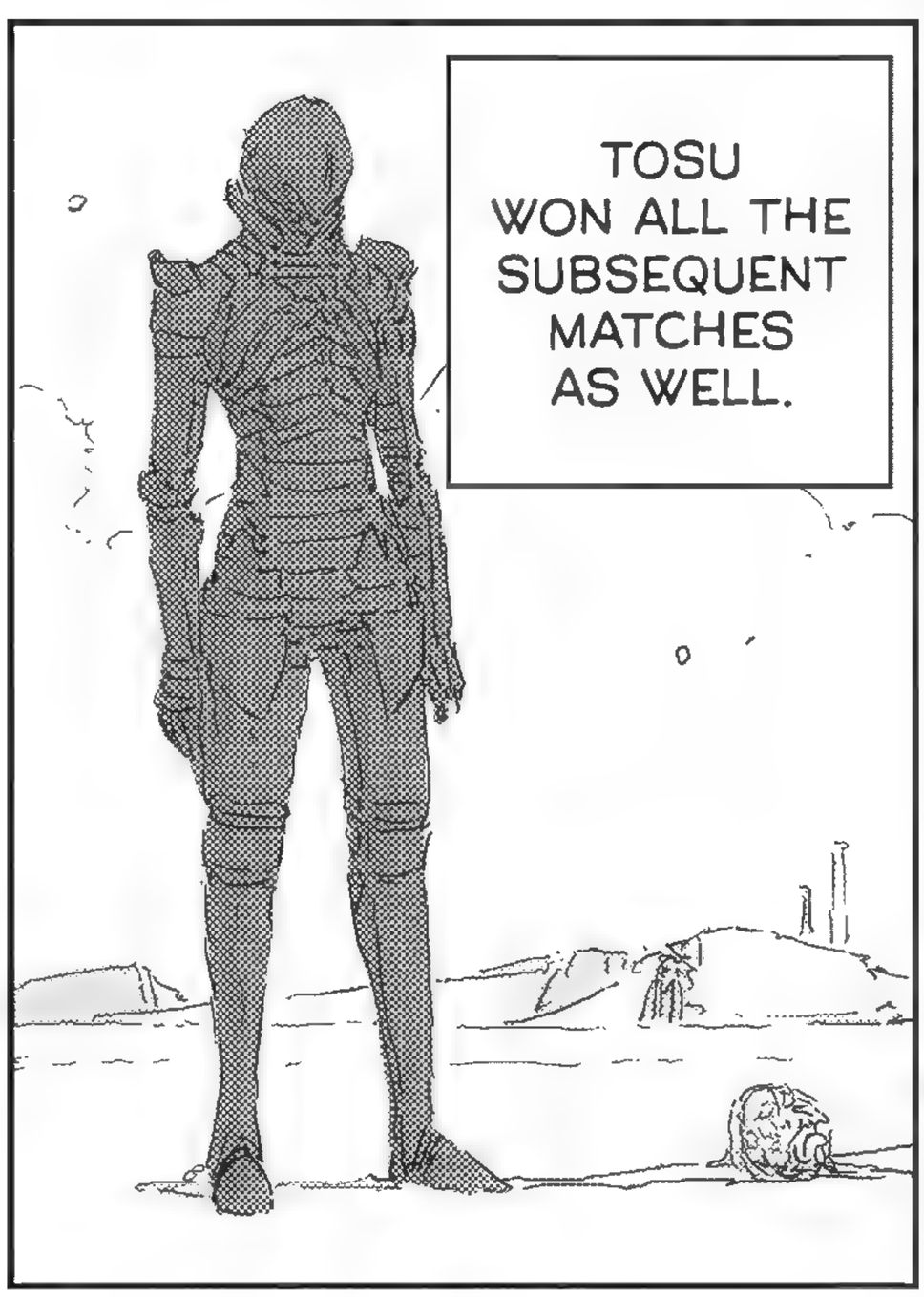



TOSU IS THE WINNER!!
ALTO IS DEAD !


CHOKK


TOSU WON ALL THE SUBSEQUENT MATCHES AS WELL.

NICHIKO SUOU, THE EMPEROR, BESTOWS THE TITLE OF TOP-RANK REINCARNATED UPON THE WINNER.

CONGRATULATIONS, TOSU.

I THOUGHT THAT YOU COULD DO IT.

REINCARNATED TOSU, COME FORWARD.

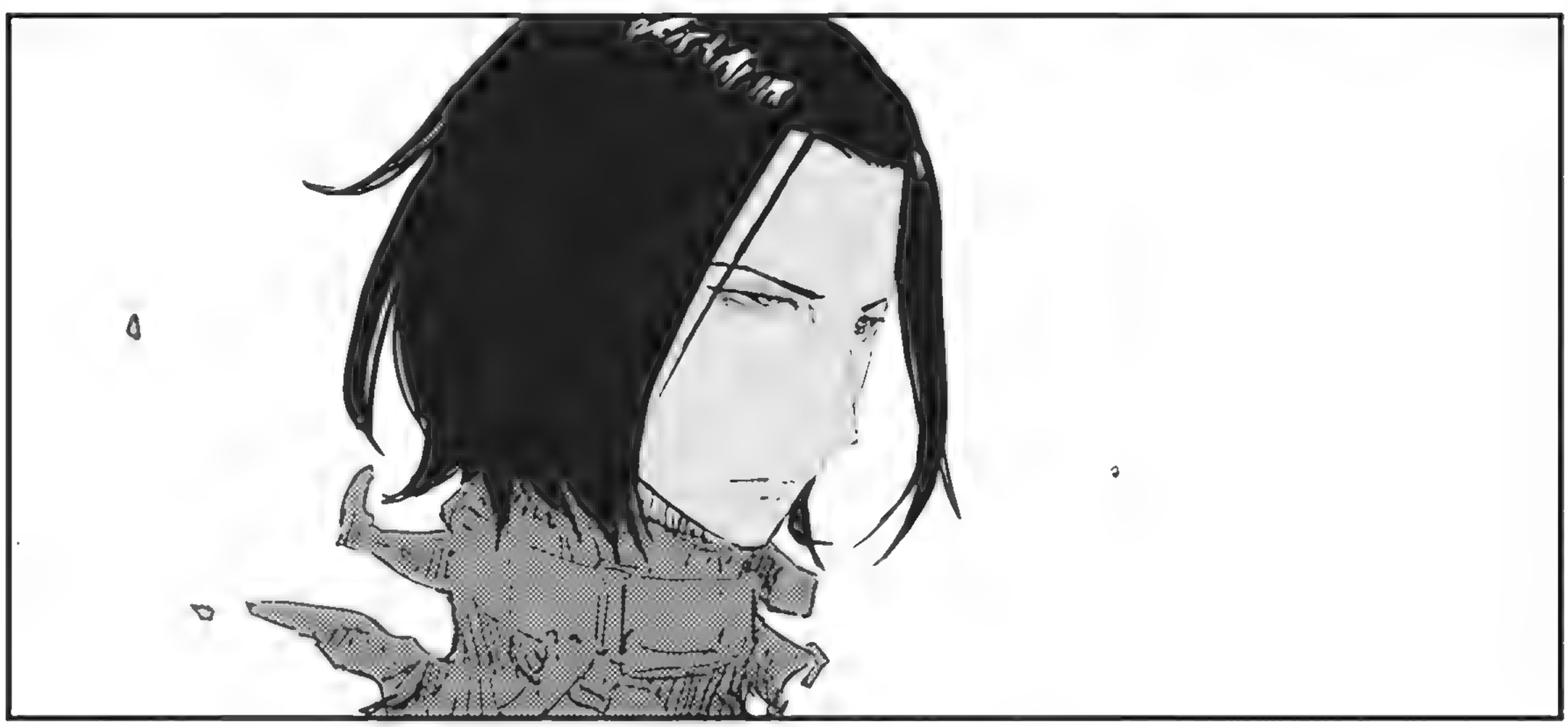
TOSU. I'M SORRY THIS IS SO SUDDEN, BUT WOULD YOU HEAR OUT A REQUEST?

BUT I THOUGHT HE HAD BAD LUCK AND COULDN'T FIND A COMPATIBLE CODE AND PASSED AWAY...

TOSU...? ISN'T THAT THE SOLDIER THEY SAID WAS THE STRONGEST IN THE EMPIRE ...?

IN THE REMOTE NORTH, THE REMNANTS OF SAVAGE TRIBES ARE COMMITTING EVIL DEEDS.

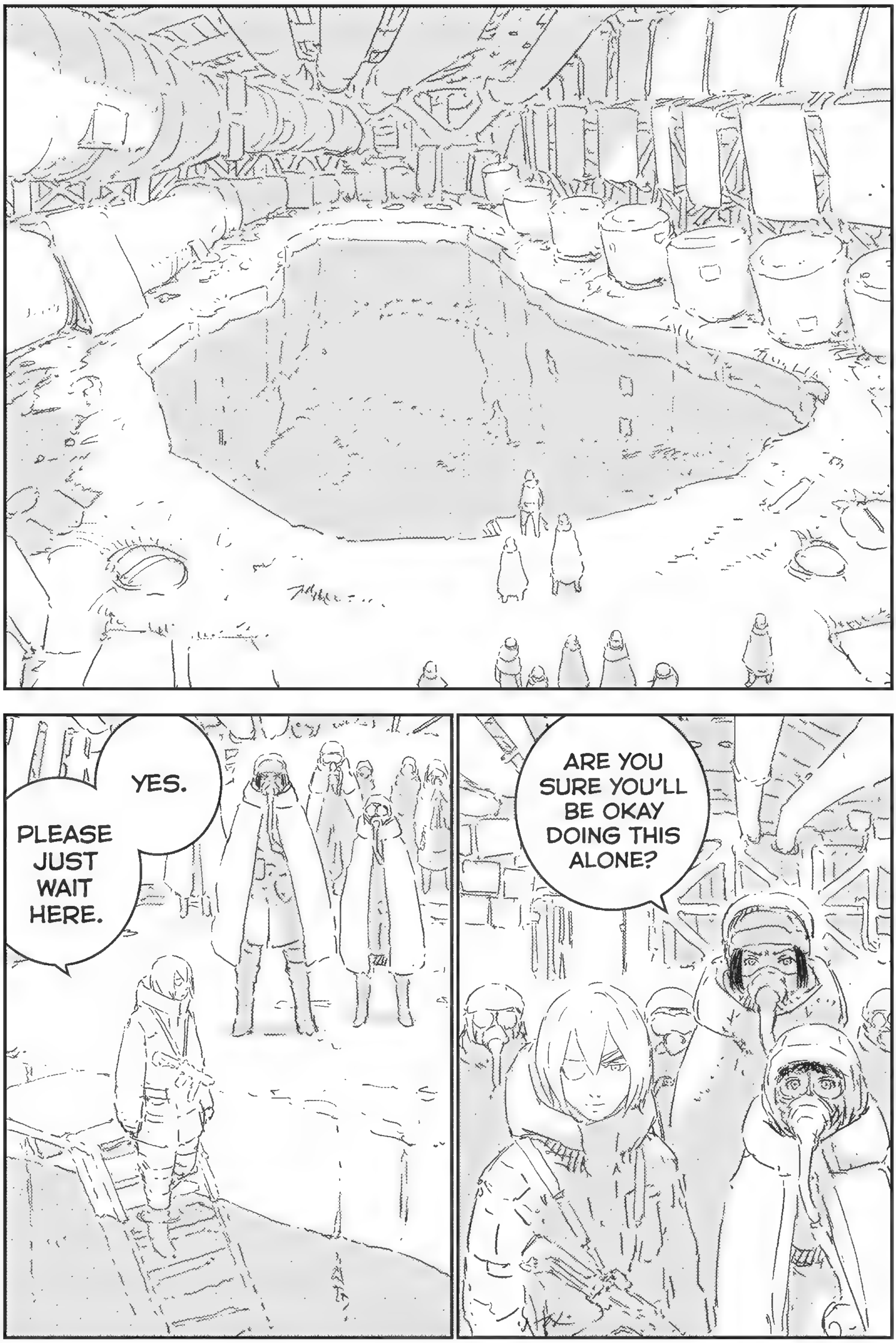
I WISH FOR YOU TO GO AND SUBJUGATE THEM.

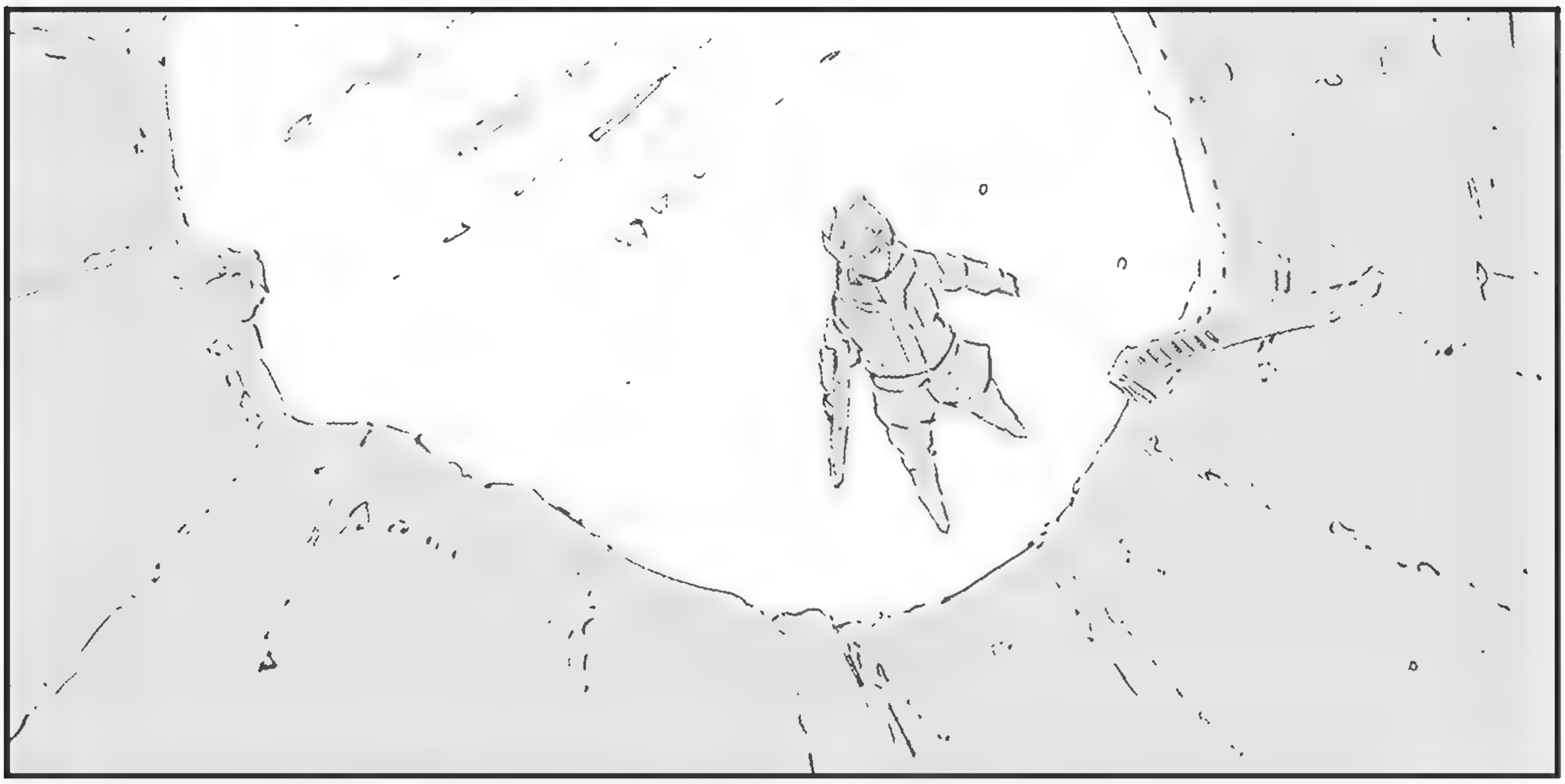


CHAPTER 12 END

APOSIMZ

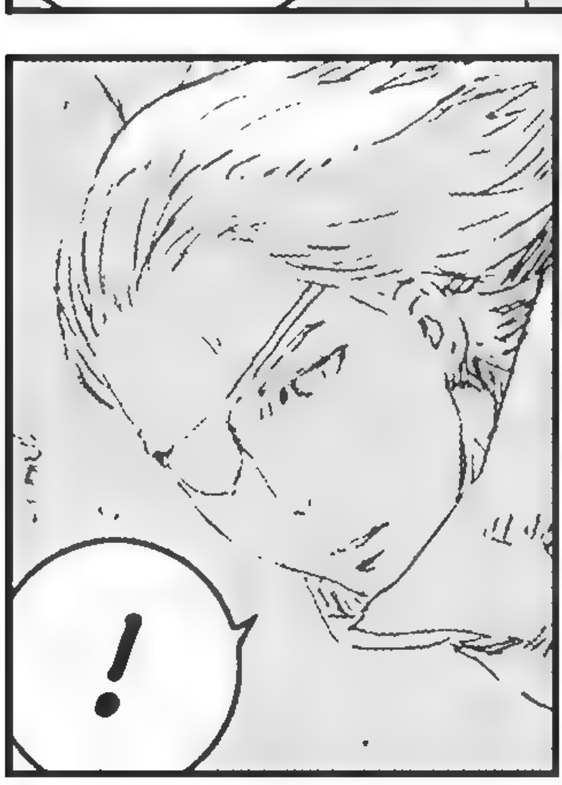
CHAPTER 13


YES.
PLEASE JUST WAIT HERE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY DOING THIS ALONE?



THE EMISSION OF HAIGHS PARTICLES COULD STIR UP UNWELCOME AUTOMATONS.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ARMOR UP, ETHEROW?
PLUS WE'RE NEAR THE VILLAGE, SO I'D LIKE TO AVOID ARMORING UP IF POSSIBLE.

GLUP
GLUP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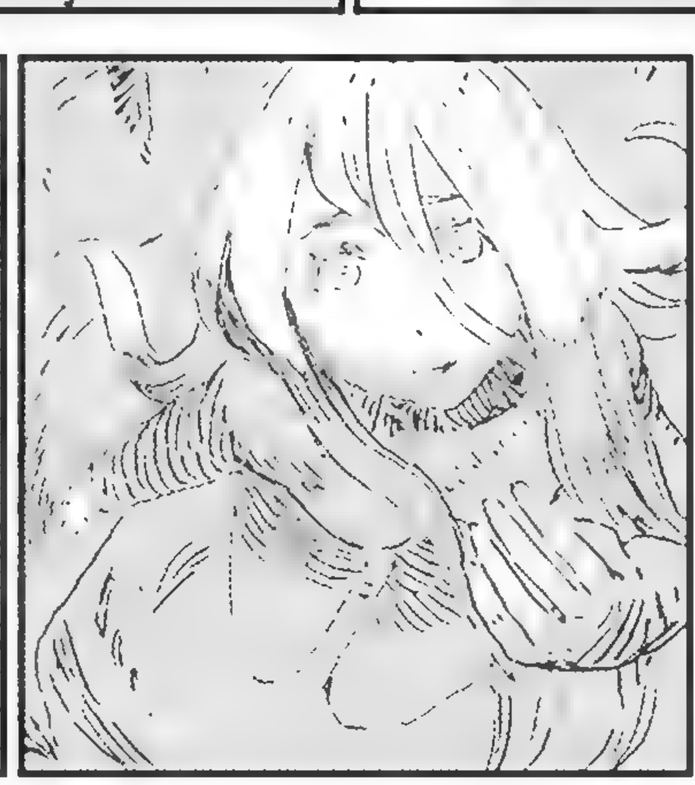
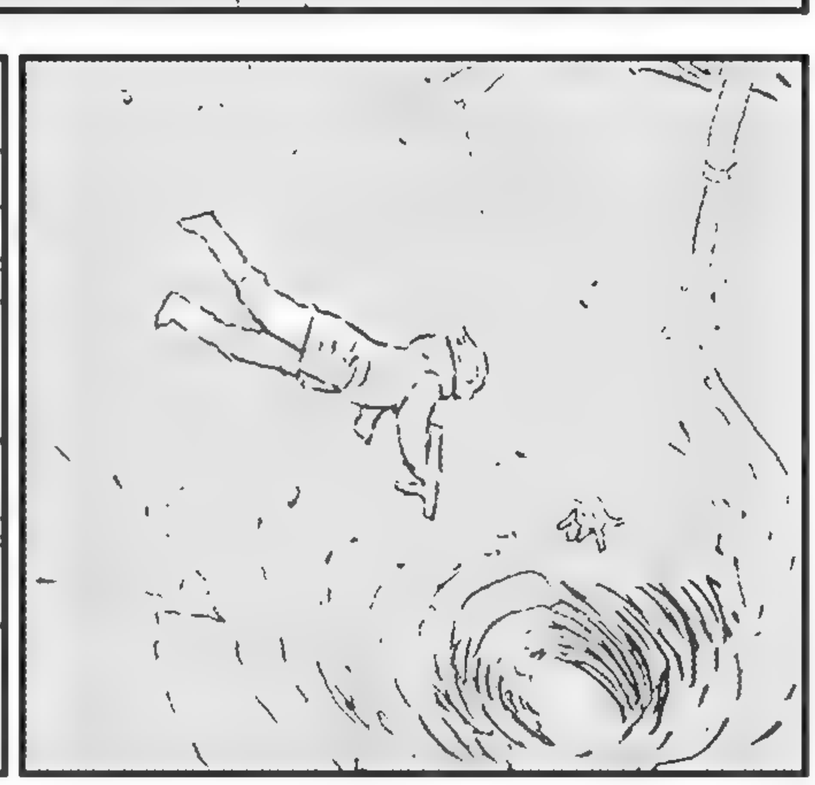
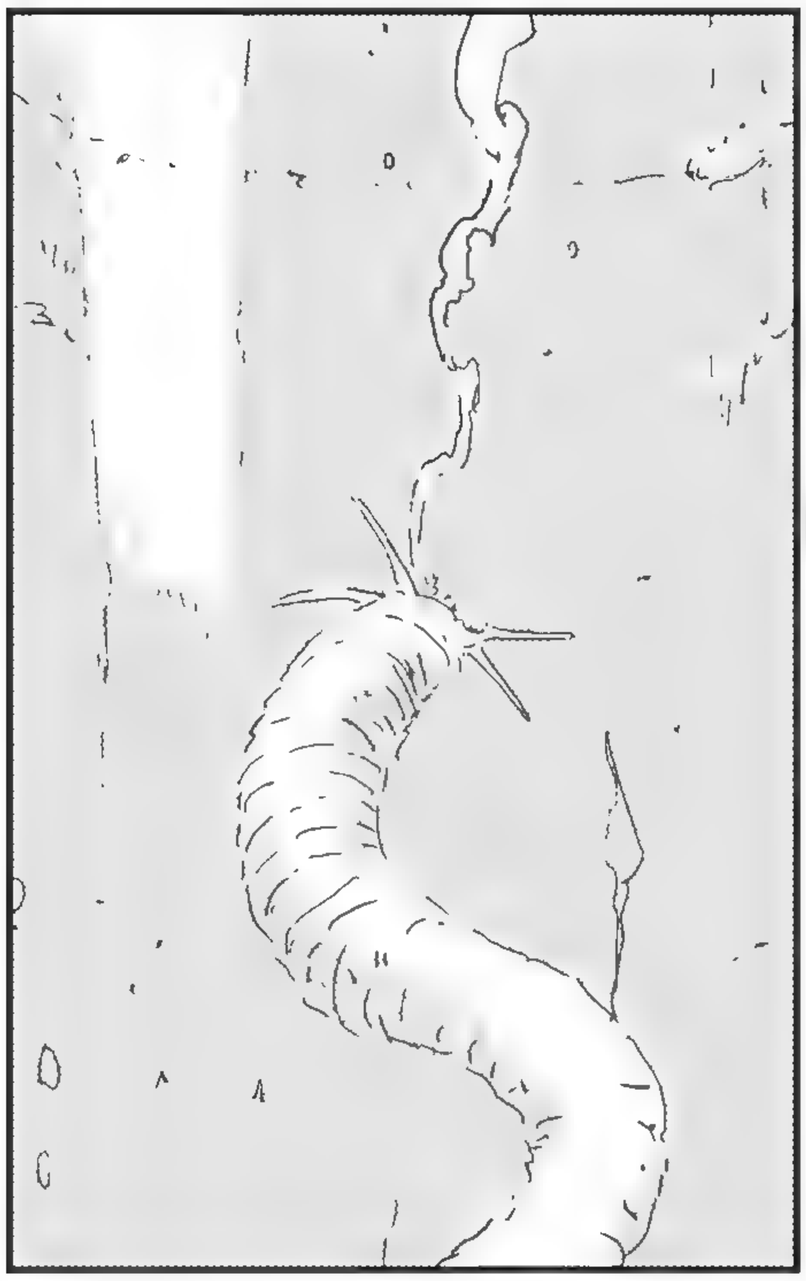
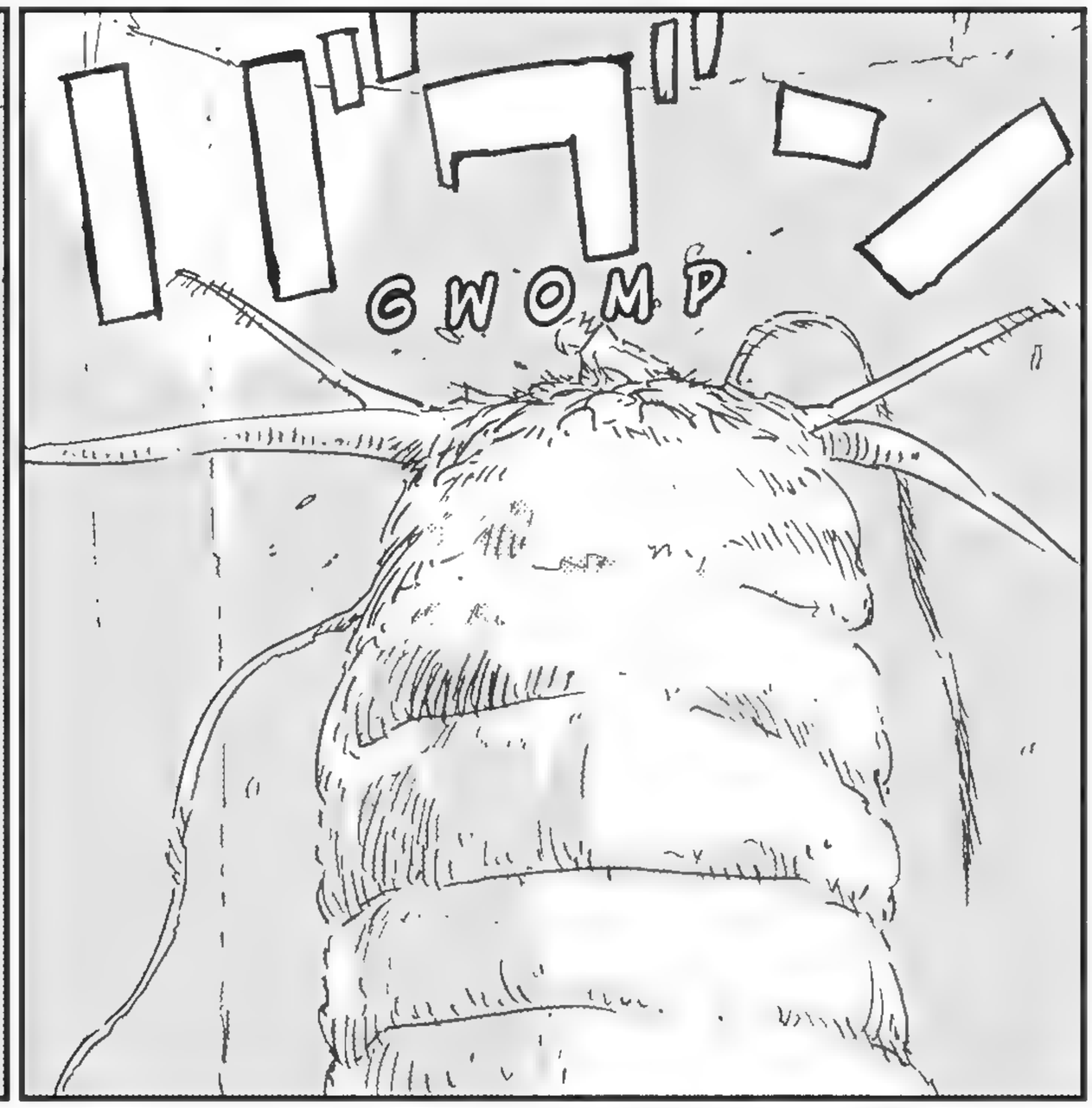


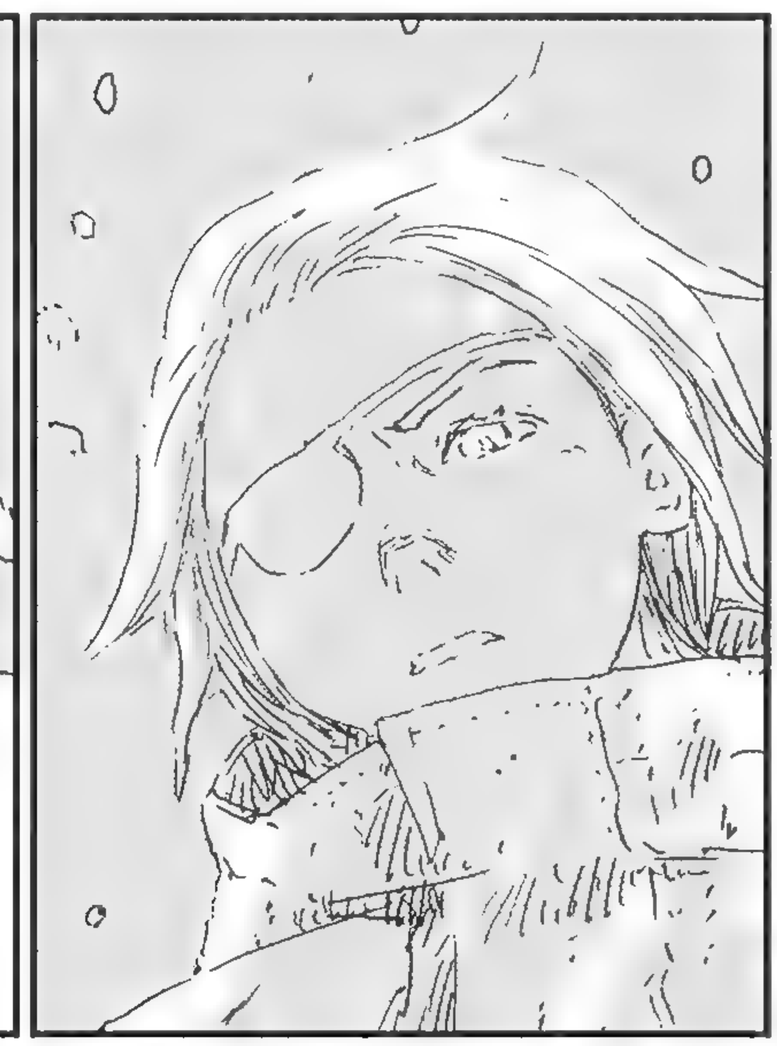


SO THAT'S IT, HUH!
GAAWP

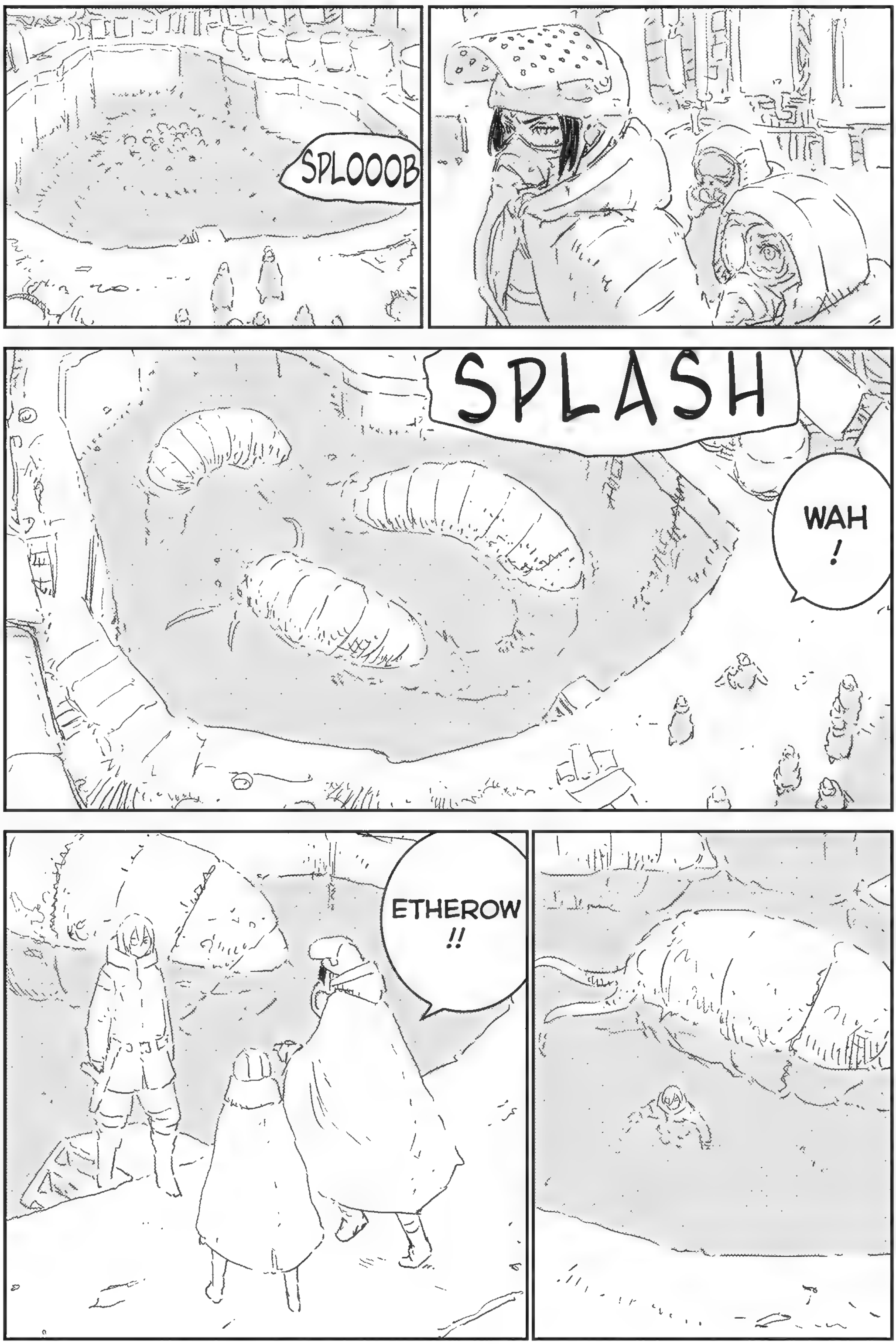



GWOMP

BLAM BLAM
BLAM



SPLAASH


SPLOOOB
SPLASH
WAH !
ETHEROW !!

THAT IS A VITAL HEAT SOURCE, BUT WE COULDN'T GET CLOSE BECAUSE OF IT.

DID HE GET THE ONE DOMINATING THE HOT WATER RESERVE ?!

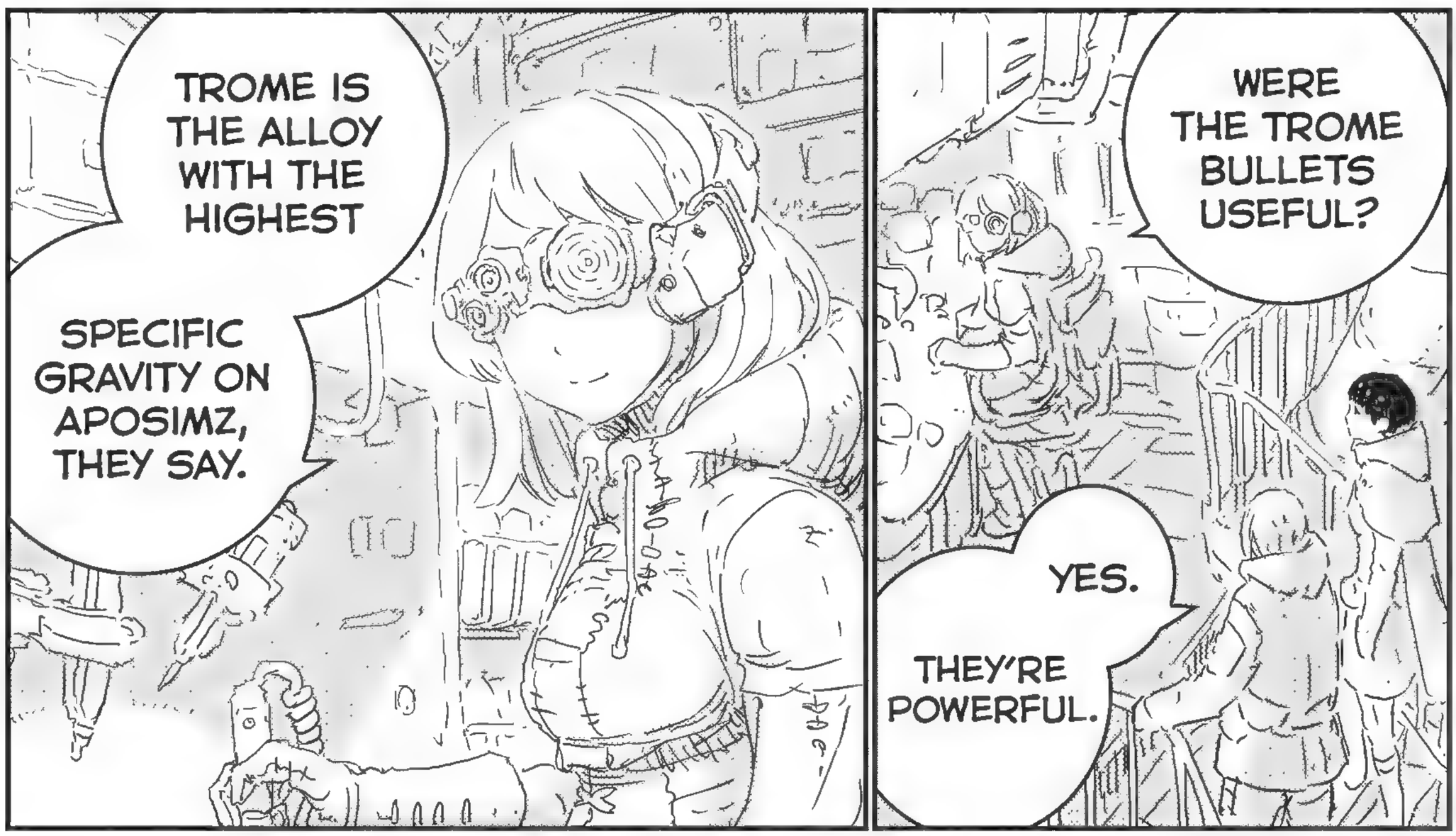
WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD FOR A WHILE, EITHER!

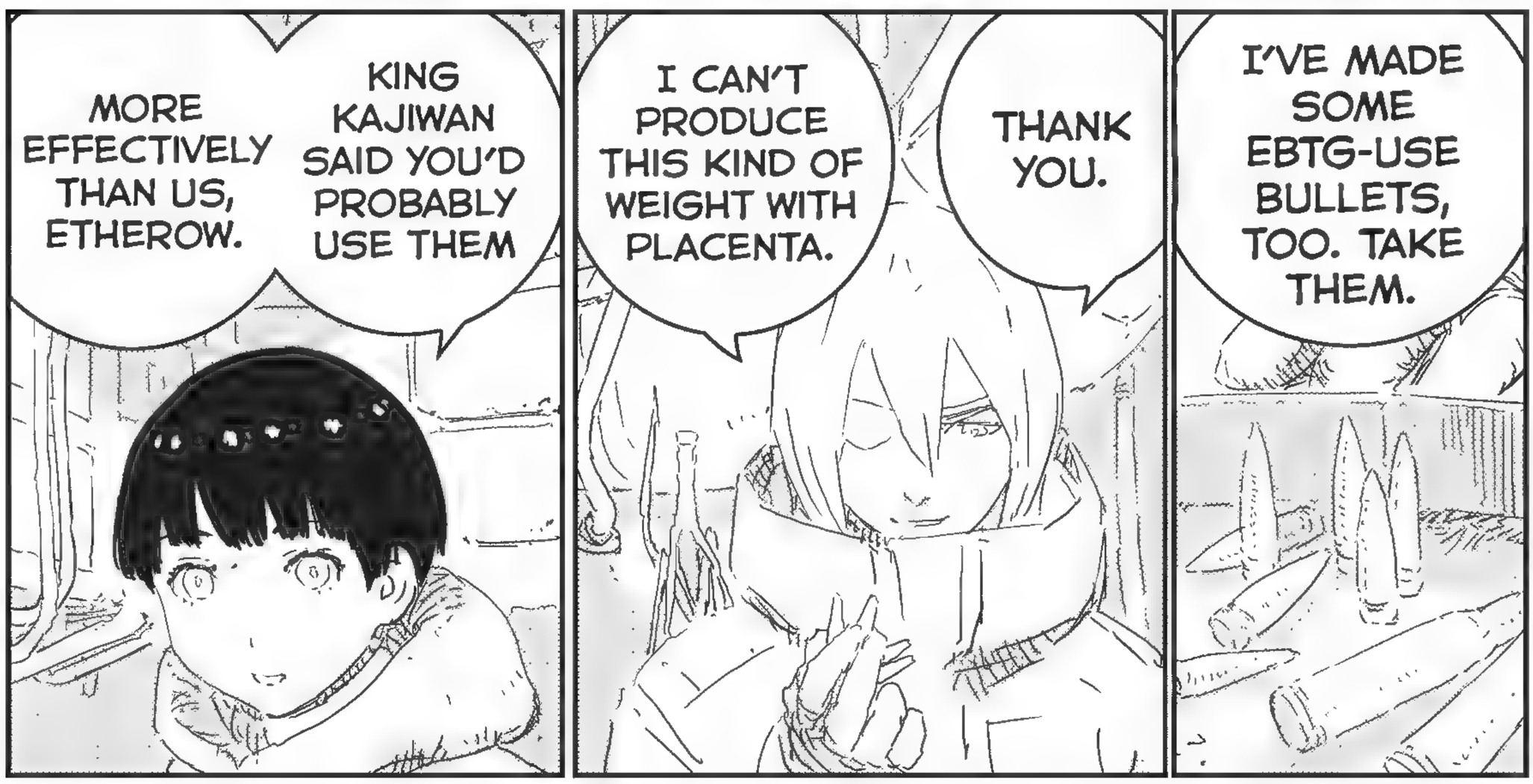
THAT WAS AN AUTOMATON WITH A LOT OF EDIBLE PARTS!

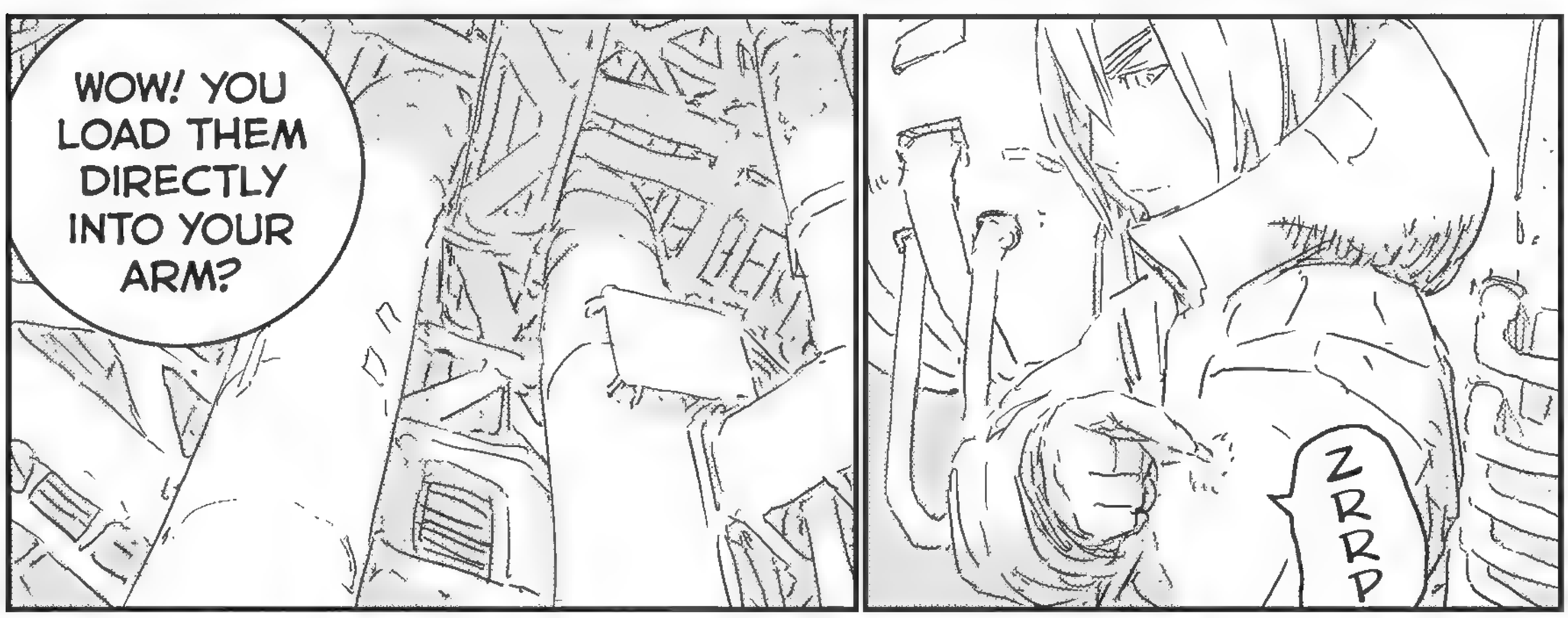
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

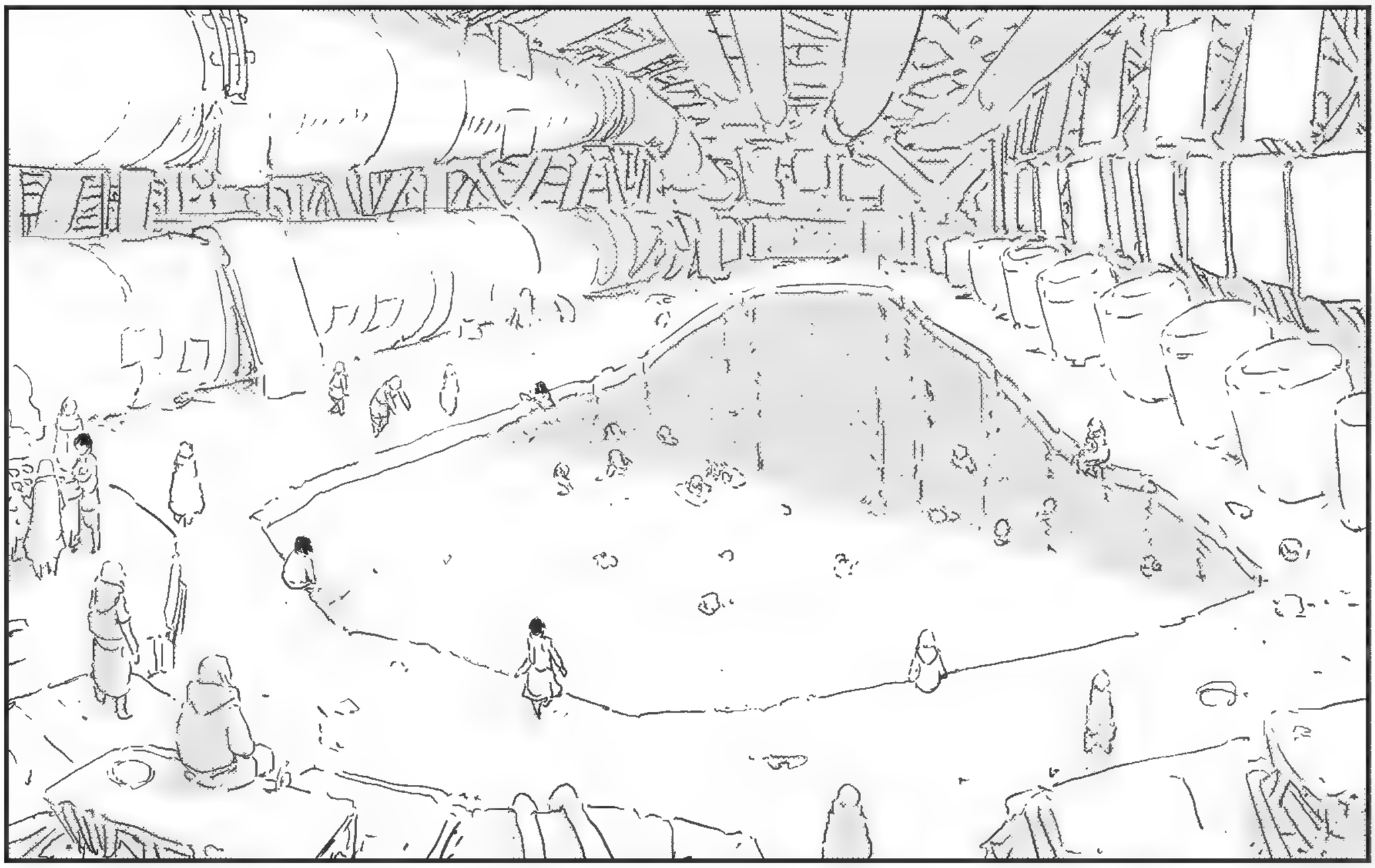
ETHEROW. COME WITH ME A MINUTE.

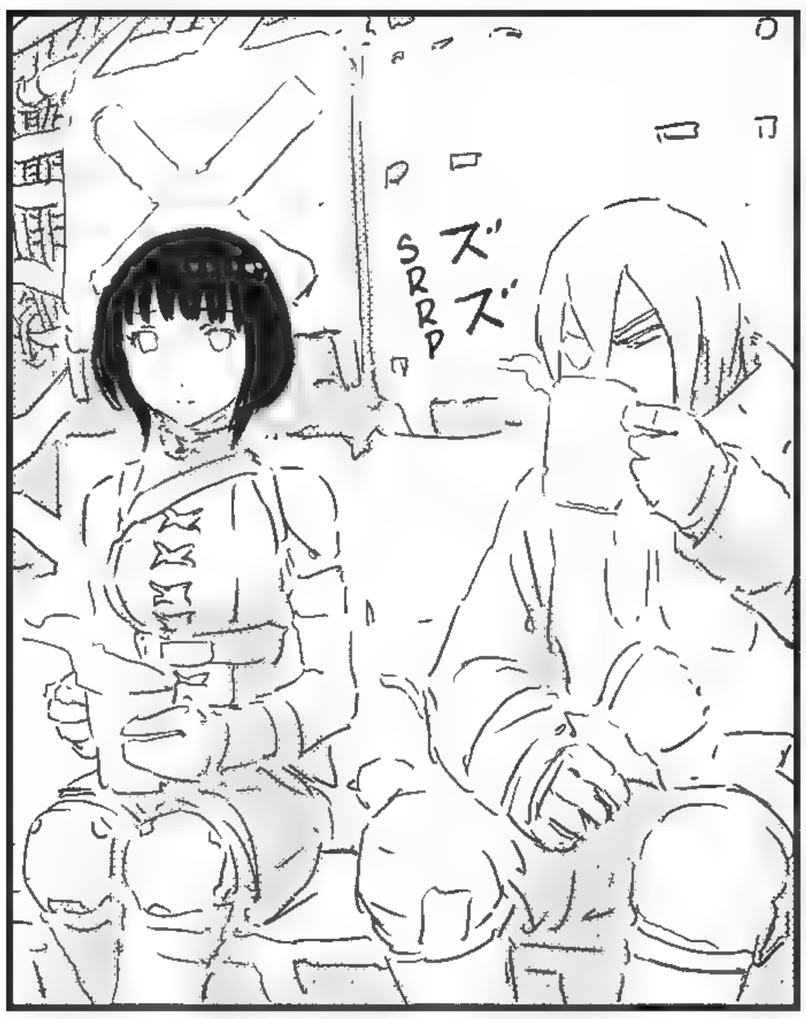
...


TROME IS THE ALLOY WITH THE HIGHEST
SPECIFIC GRAVITY ON APOSIMZ, THEY SAY.
WERE THE TROME BULLETS USEFUL?
YES.
THEY'RE POWERFUL.


MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN US, ETHEROW.
KING KAJIWAN SAID YOU'D PROBABLY USE THEM
I CAN'T PRODUCE THIS KIND OF WEIGHT WITH PLACENTA.
THANK YOU.
I'VE MADE SOME EBTG-USE BULLETS, TOO. TAKE THEM.


WOW! YOU LOAD THEM DIRECTLY INTO YOUR ARM?
ZRRP

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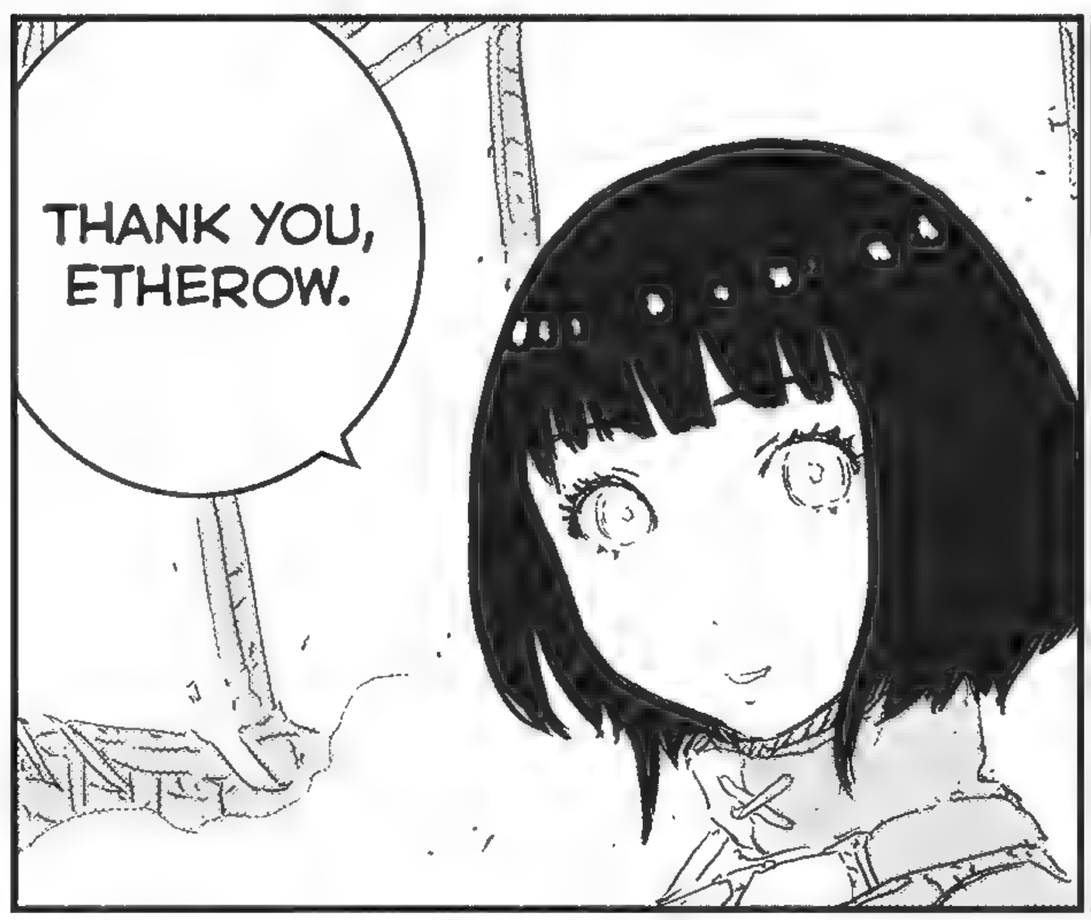
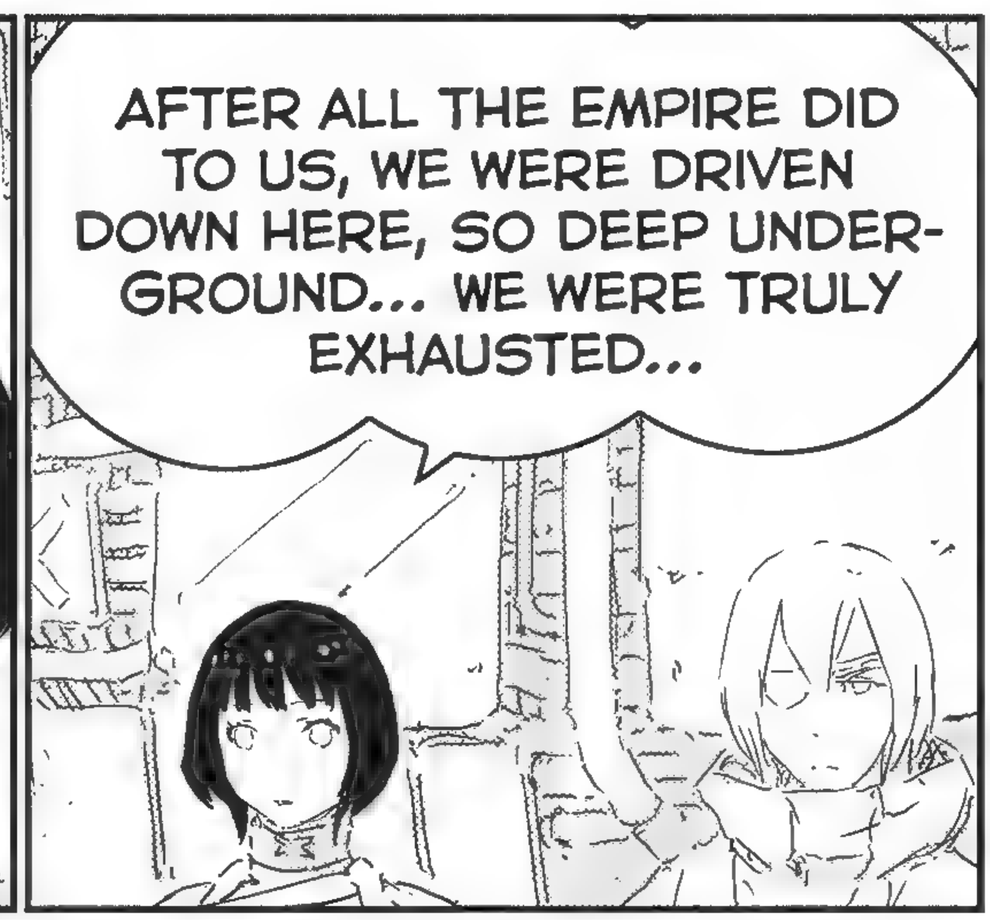
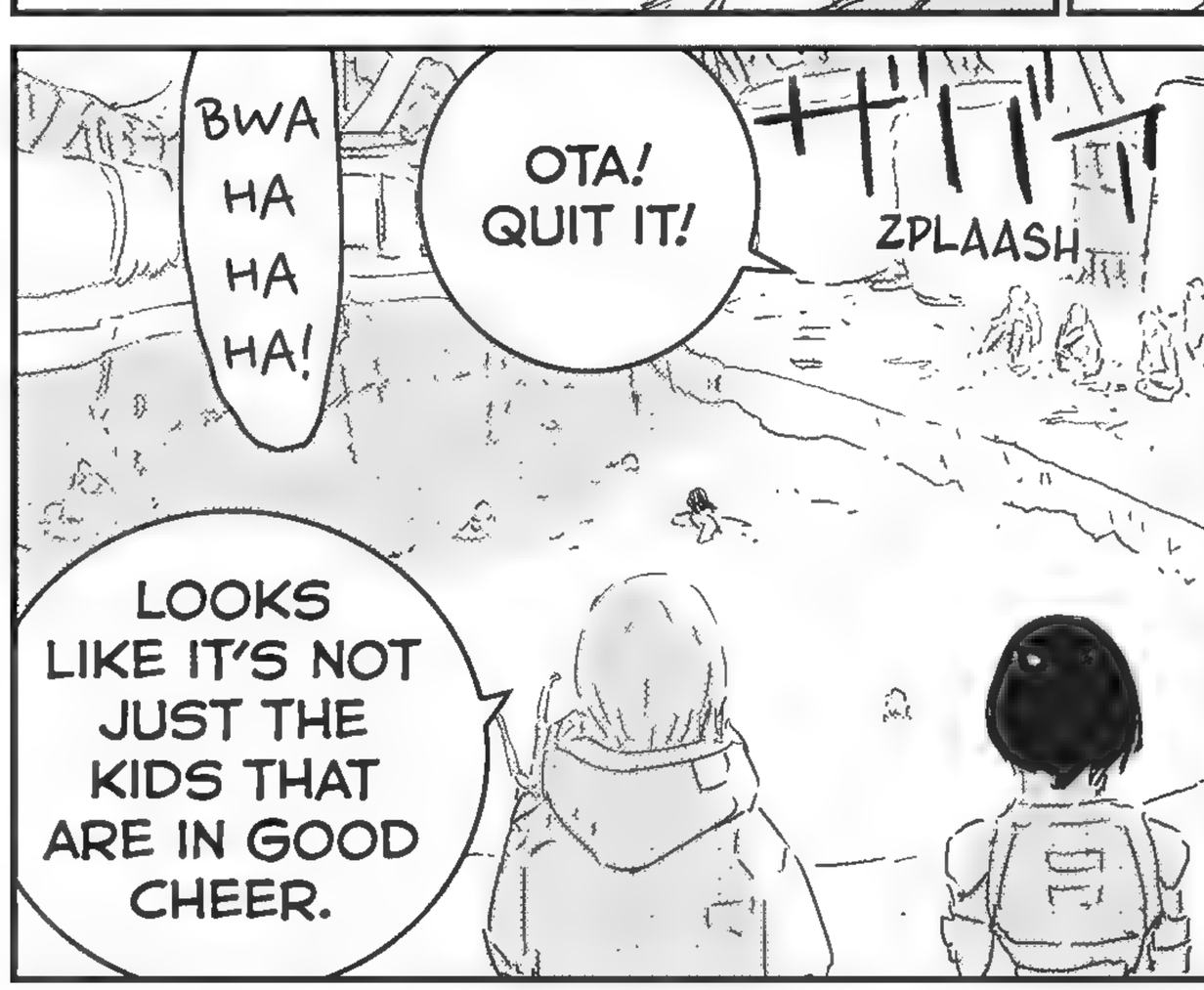
SRRP

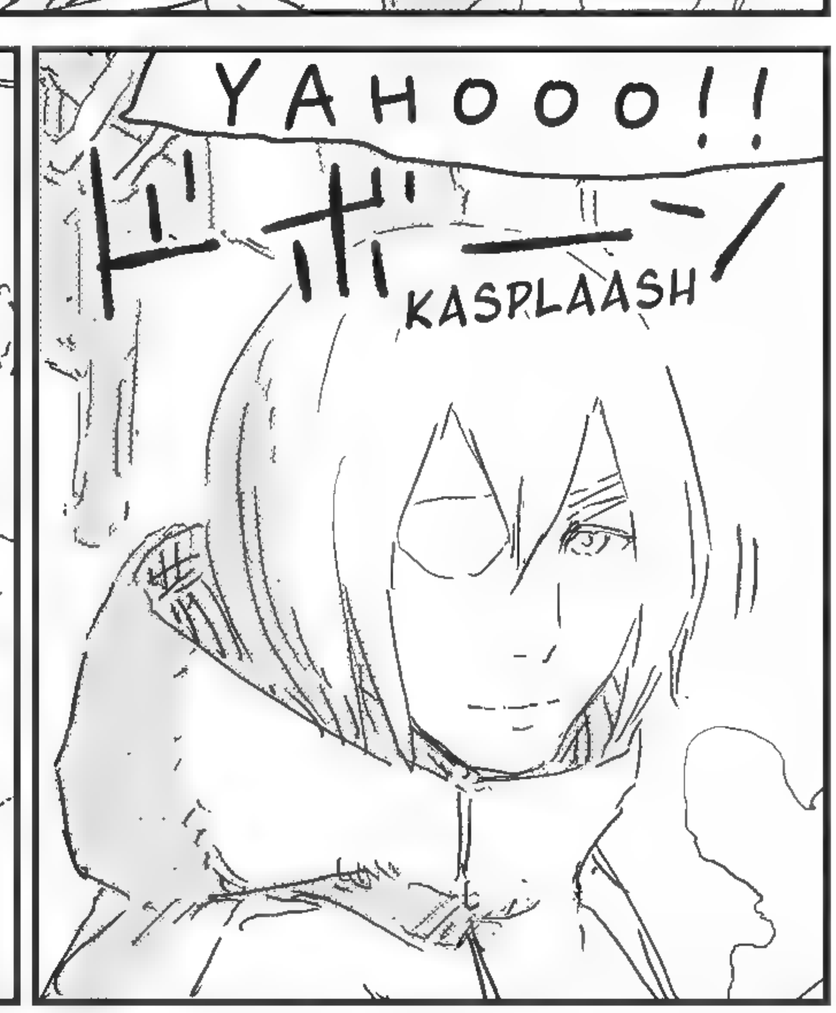
WANT SOME PIPE ROCK JUICE?

IN SUCH GOOD CHEER SINCE WE CAME UNDER-GROUND.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE KIDS
AH HA HA HA


THANK YOU, ETHEROW.


AFTER ALL THE EMPIRE DID TO US, WE WERE DRIVEN DOWN HERE, SO DEEP UNDER-GROUND... WE WERE TRULY EXHAUSTED...

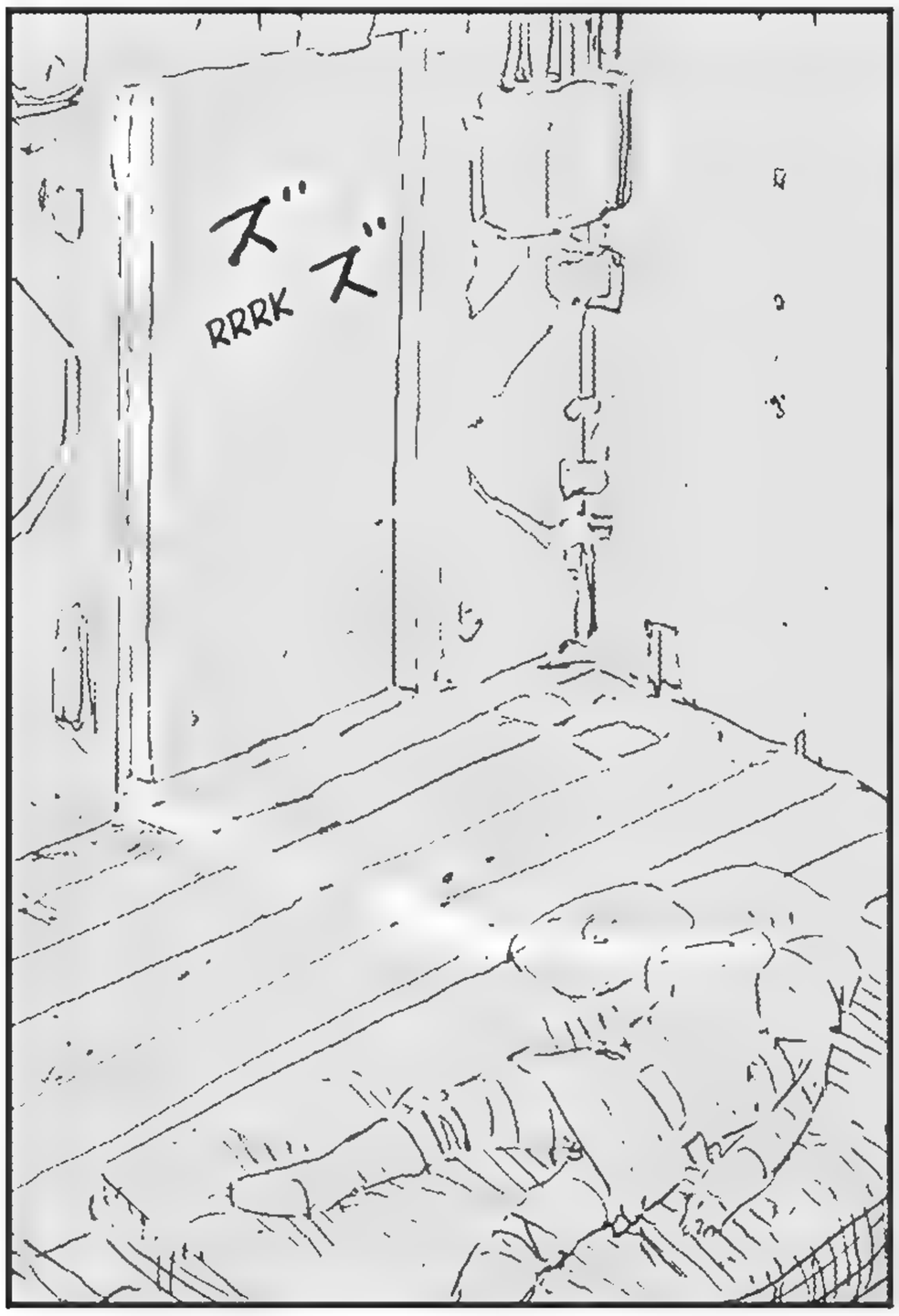

BWA HA HA HA!
OTA! QUIT IT!
ZPLAASH
LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT JUST THE KIDS THAT ARE IN GOOD CHEER.


YAHOOO!!
KASPLAASH

YOU'RE SO STRONG!

YAH HA HA!
FWOOP FWOOP

ETHEROW! DO THE THING!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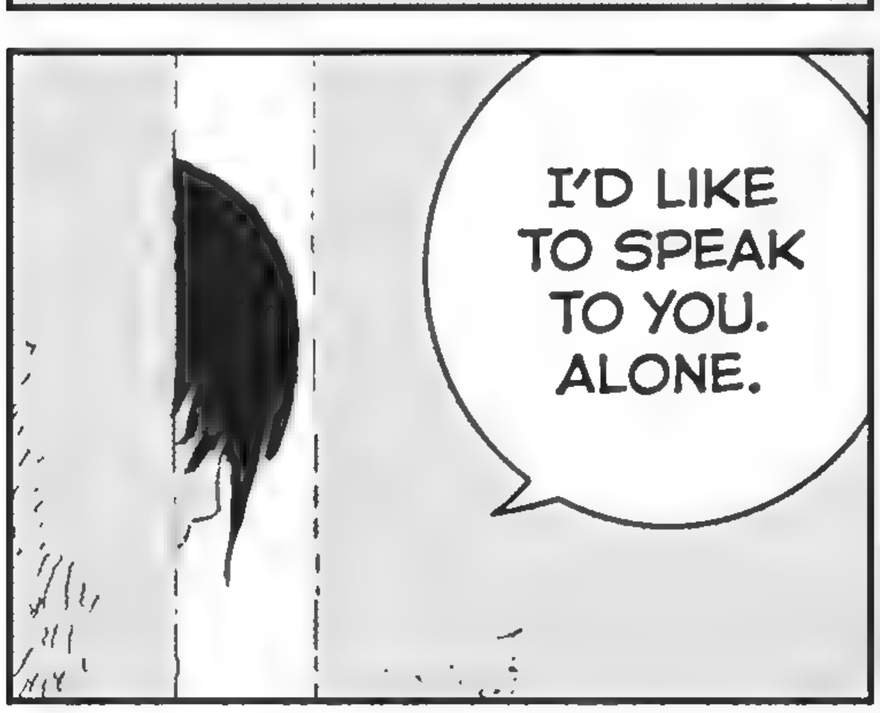
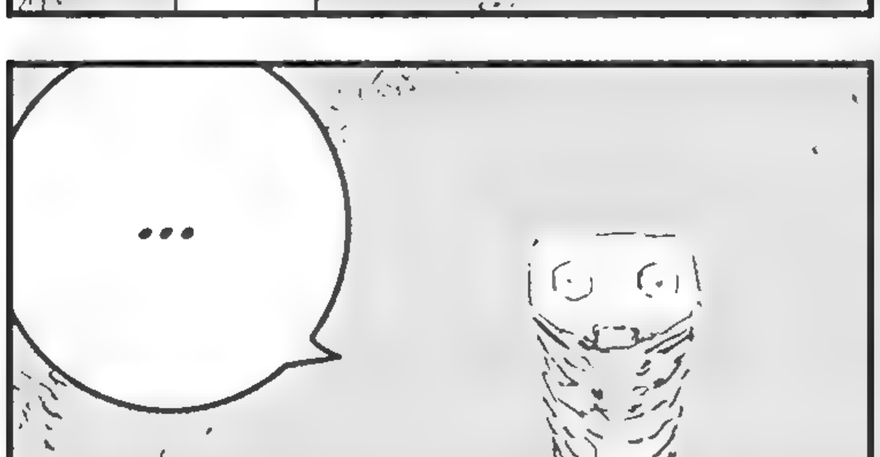
RRRK ズ

WHAT IS IT?


I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU. ALONE.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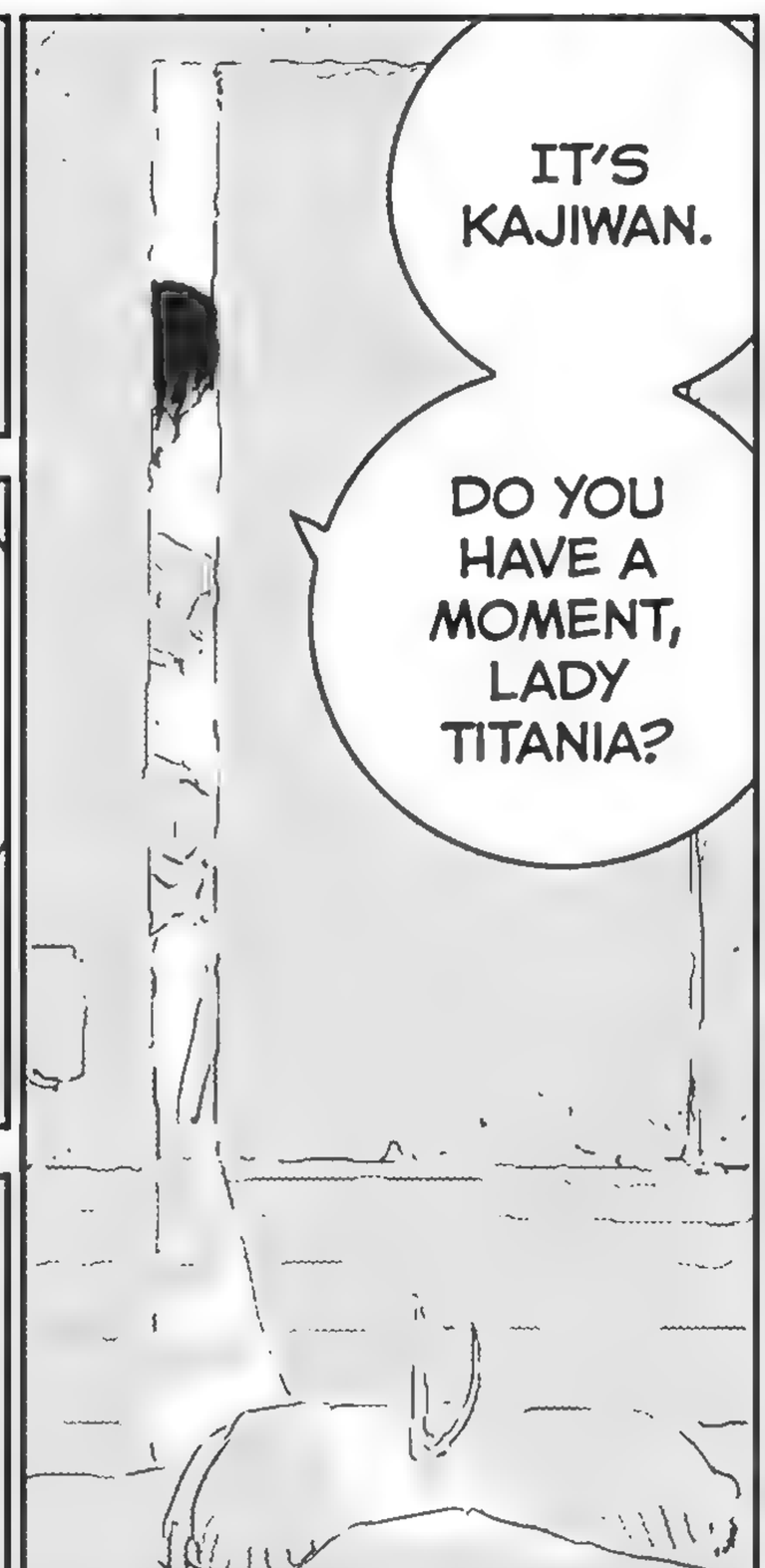
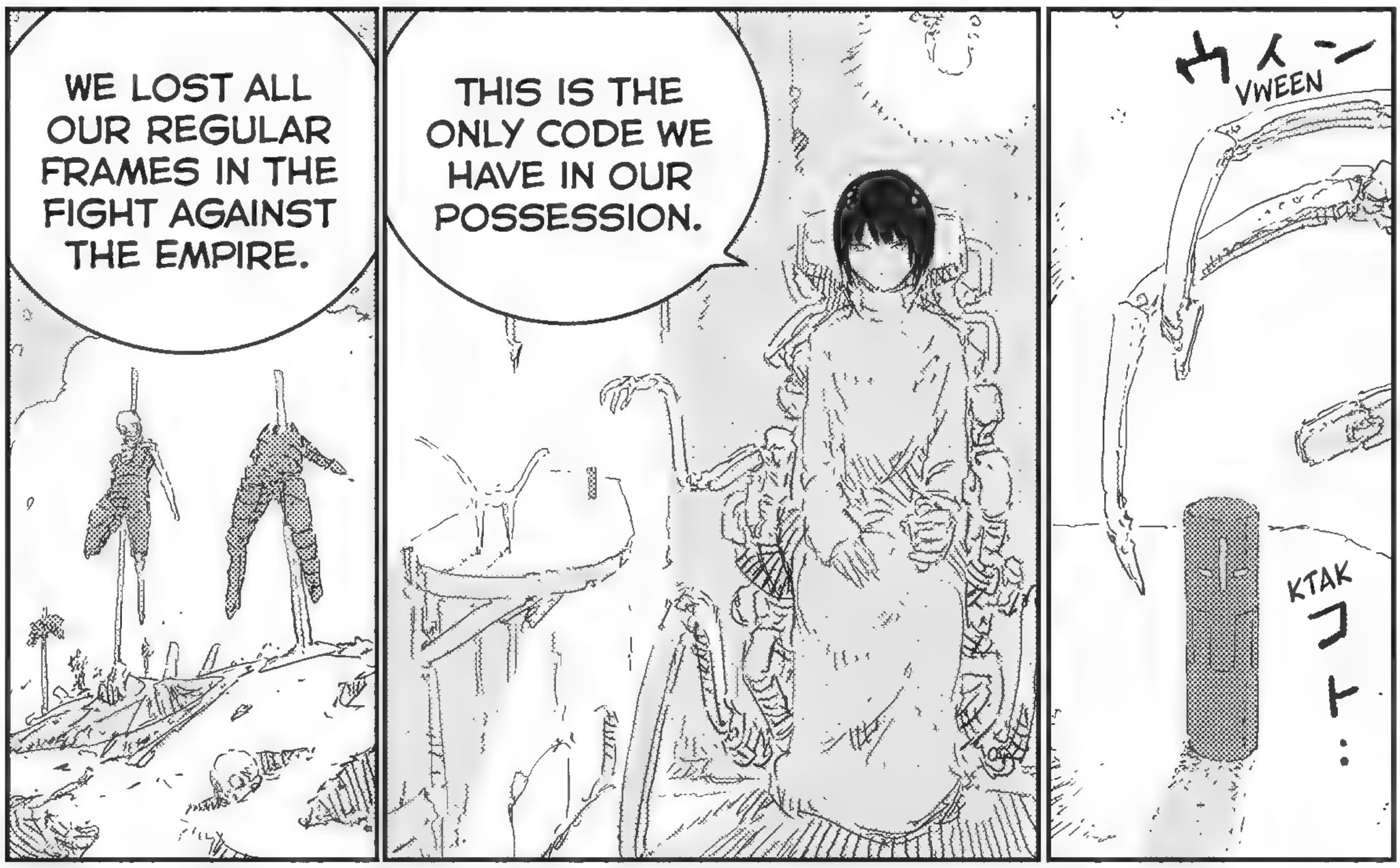
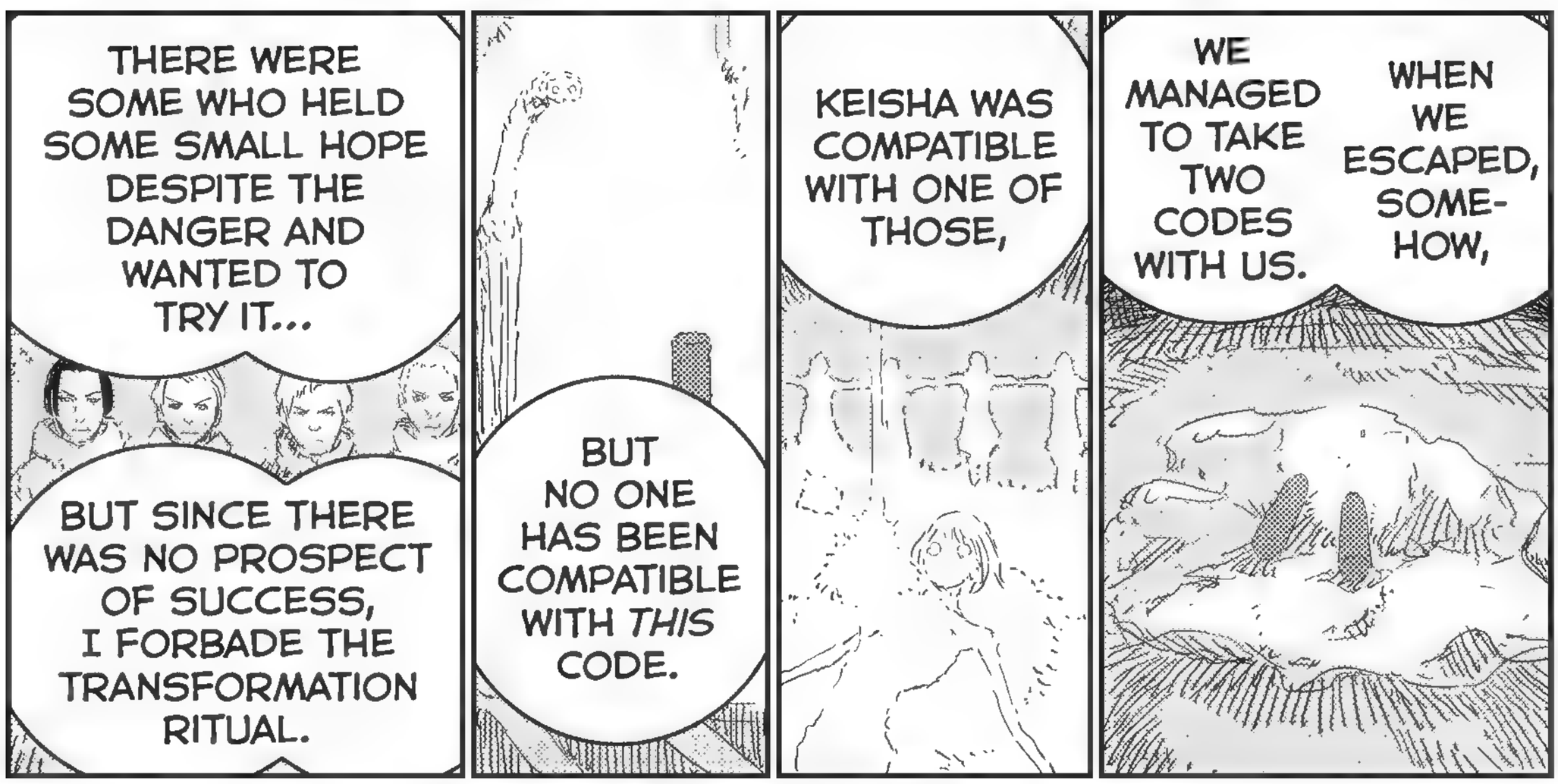

IT'S KAJIWAN.
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT, LADY TITANIA?


WE LOST ALL OUR REGULAR FRAMES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE EMPIRE.
THIS IS THE ONLY CODE WE HAVE IN OUR POSSESSION.
VWEEN
KTAK


THERE WERE SOME WHO HELD SOME SMALL HOPE DESPITE THE DANGER AND WANTED TO TRY IT...
BUT SINCE THERE WAS NO PROSPECT OF SUCCESS, I FORBADE THE TRANSFORMATION RITUAL.
BUT NO ONE HAS BEEN COMPATIBLE WITH *THIS* CODE.
KEISHA WAS COMPATIBLE WITH ONE OF THOSE,
WE MANAGED TO TAKE TWO CODES WITH US.
WHEN WE ESCAPED, SOME-HOW,

I CAN'T EVEN MOVE MY BODY WELL NOW.
NOT ONLY DID I LOSE HALF MY BODY, NOW I SUFFER FROM FRAME DISEASE.
I FAILED THE TRANS-FORMATION, TOO.

HE WAS ABLE TO TRANSFORM USING YOUR POWER.

I HAVE HEARD THAT EVEN THOUGH ETHEROW'S COMPATIBILITY RATIO WAS INSUFFICIENT,

LADY TITANIA ...

...

CAN YOU USE THIS CODE TO TURN ME INTO A REGULAR FRAME?

PLEASE.

THAT'S NOT IT.

BUT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE

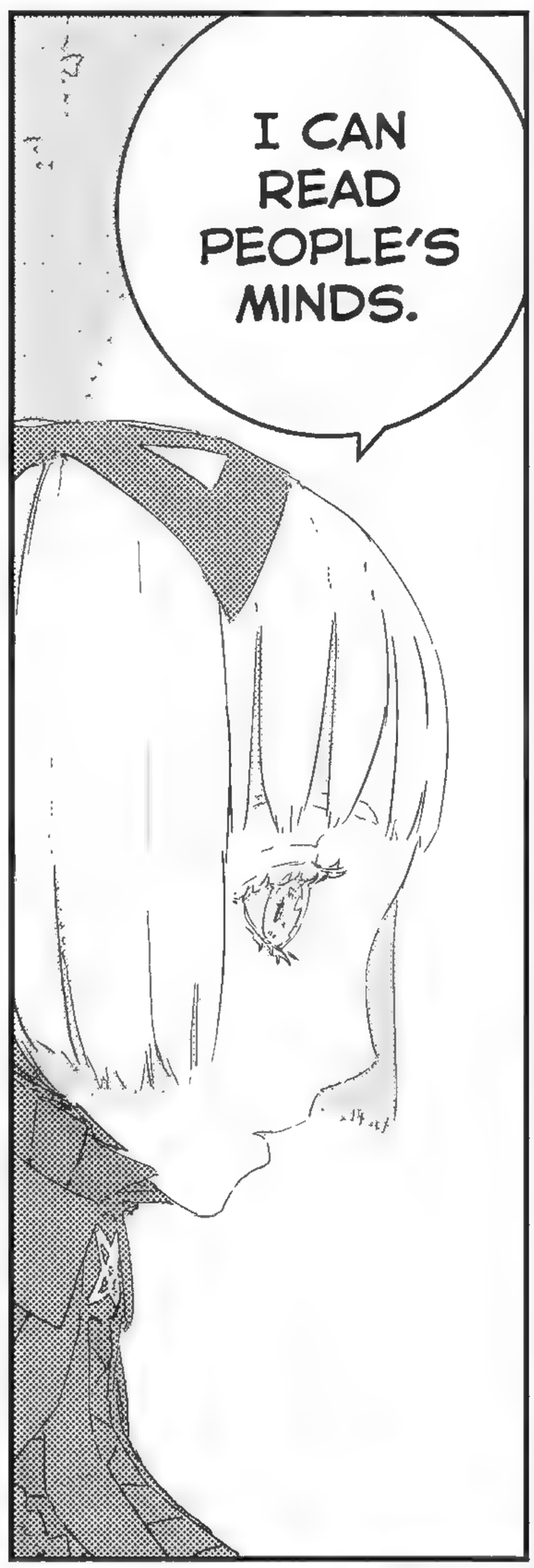
I HAVE HEARD THAT FRAME DISEASE SUFFERERS CAN'T BECOME REGULAR FRAMES.

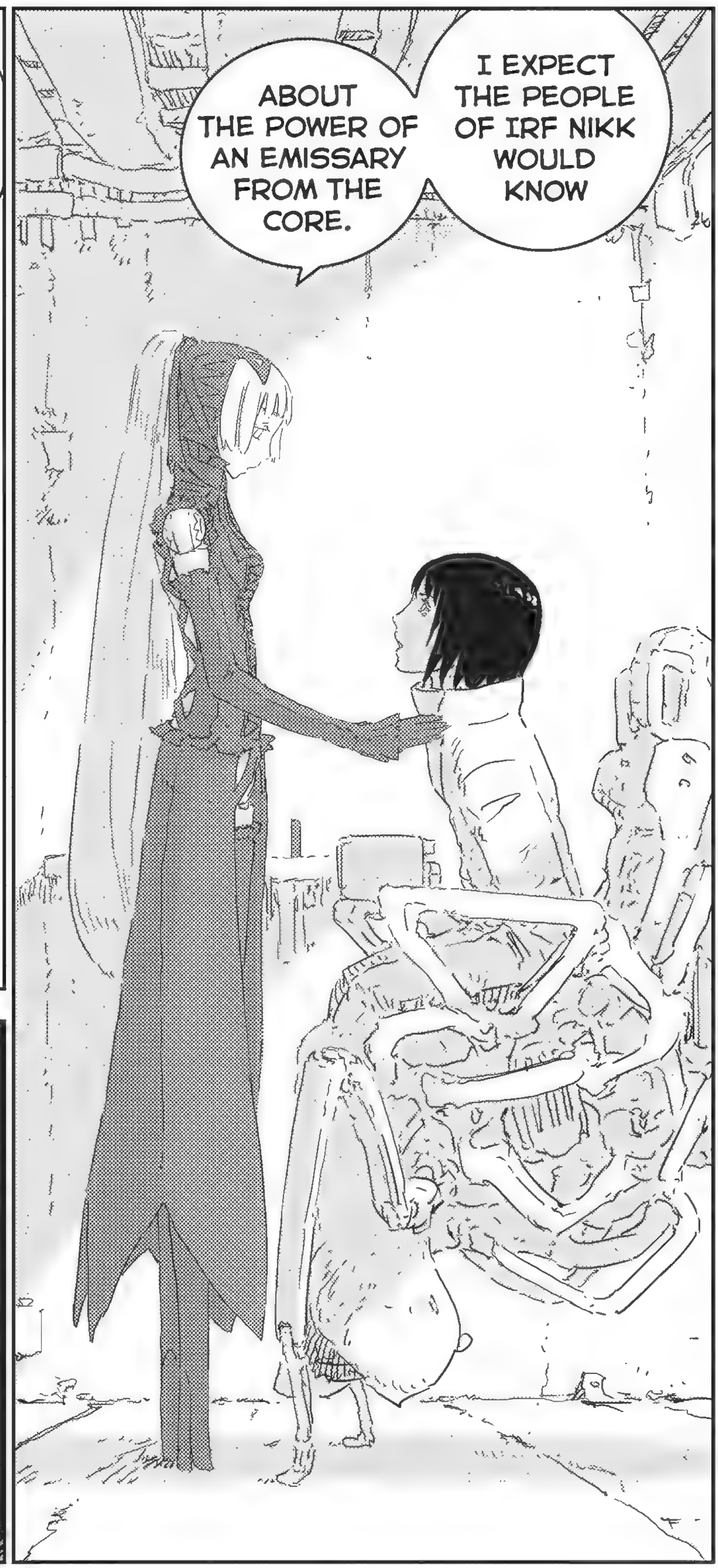
SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT SOME-HOW!

IS IT BECAUSE I HAVE FRAME DISEASE?

I CANNOT MAKE YOU A REGULAR FRAME.

... I'M SORRY.


I CAN READ PEOPLE'S MINDS.


ABOUT THE POWER OF AN EMISSARY FROM THE CORE.
I EXPECT THE PEOPLE OF IRF NIKK WOULD KNOW

AND I CAN ALSO READ...

SOME VERY, VERY DANGEROUS THOUGHTS.

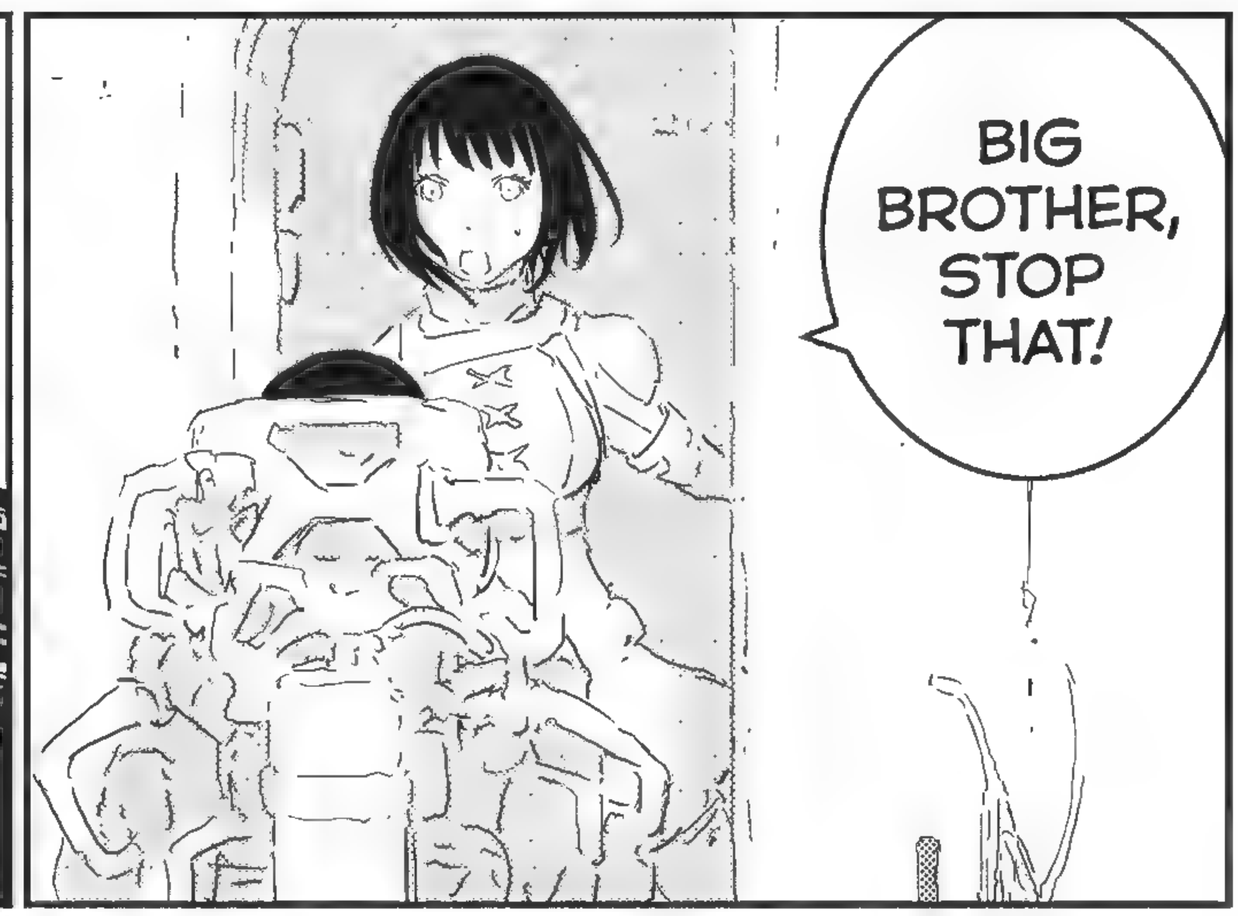
YOU ARE ENVIOUS OF KEISHA AND ETHEROW.

YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF TO BE THE MOST SUITABLE FOR THE ROLE OF PREVENTING THE END OF THE WORLD.

I SAID, PLEASE ?!

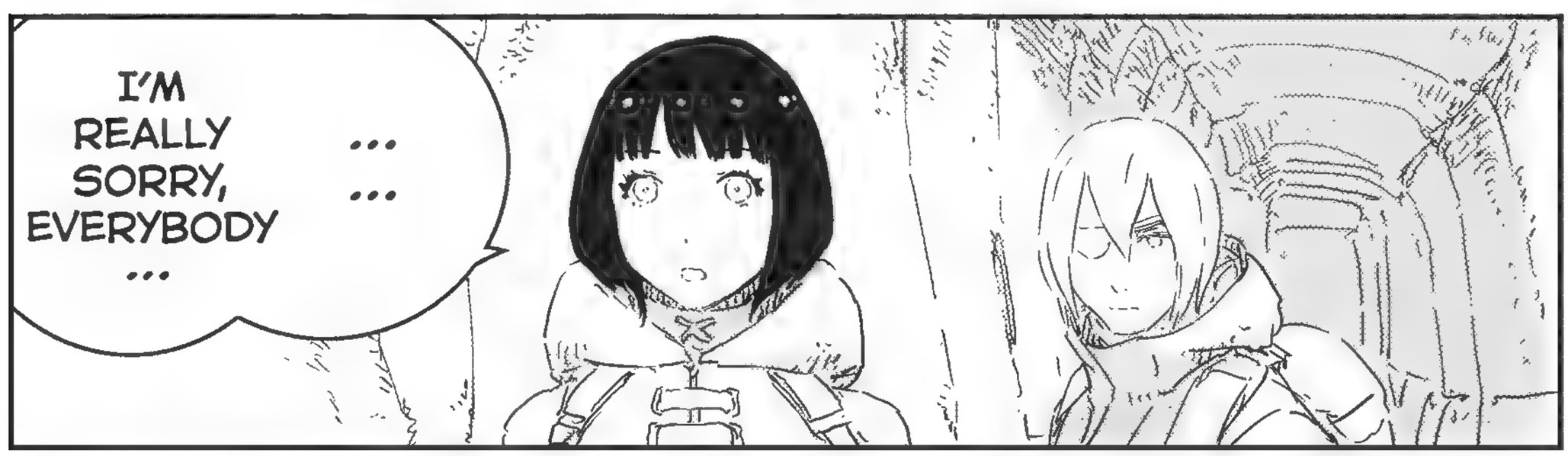
PLEASE! TURN ME INTO A REGULAR FRAME...!
I OFFERED YOU IRF NIKK'S CRUCIAL MILITARY STRENGTH!
OKAY ?
PLEASE ?
HOW COULD YOU BE SO CRUEL ?

KEISHA... HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?

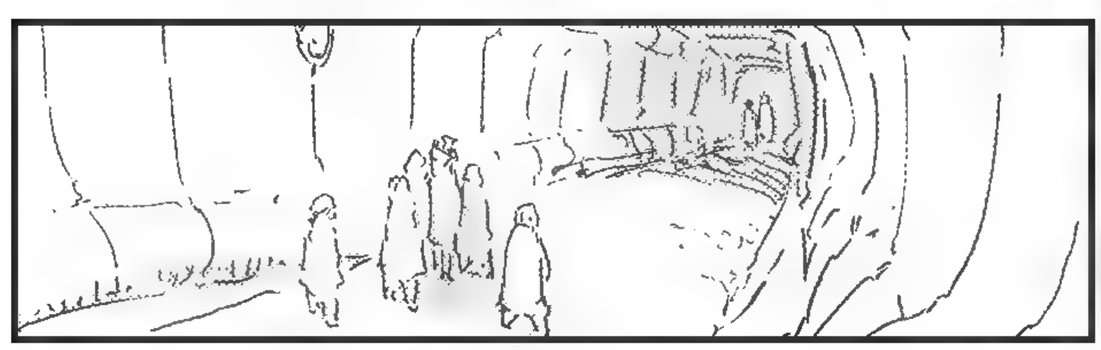

BIG BROTHER, STOP THAT!

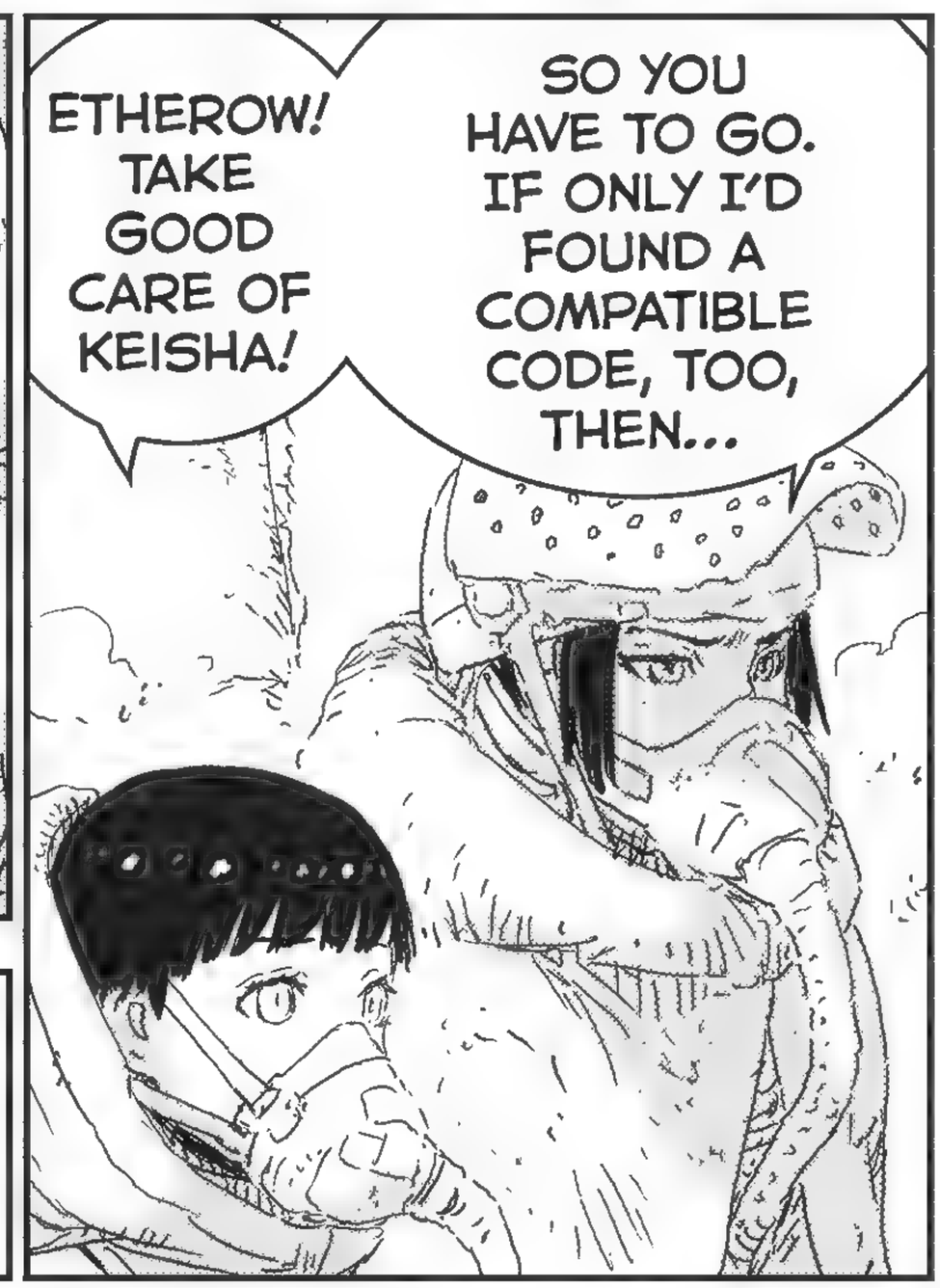
WE'LL BE LEAVING HERE TOMORROW.
BROTHER ...

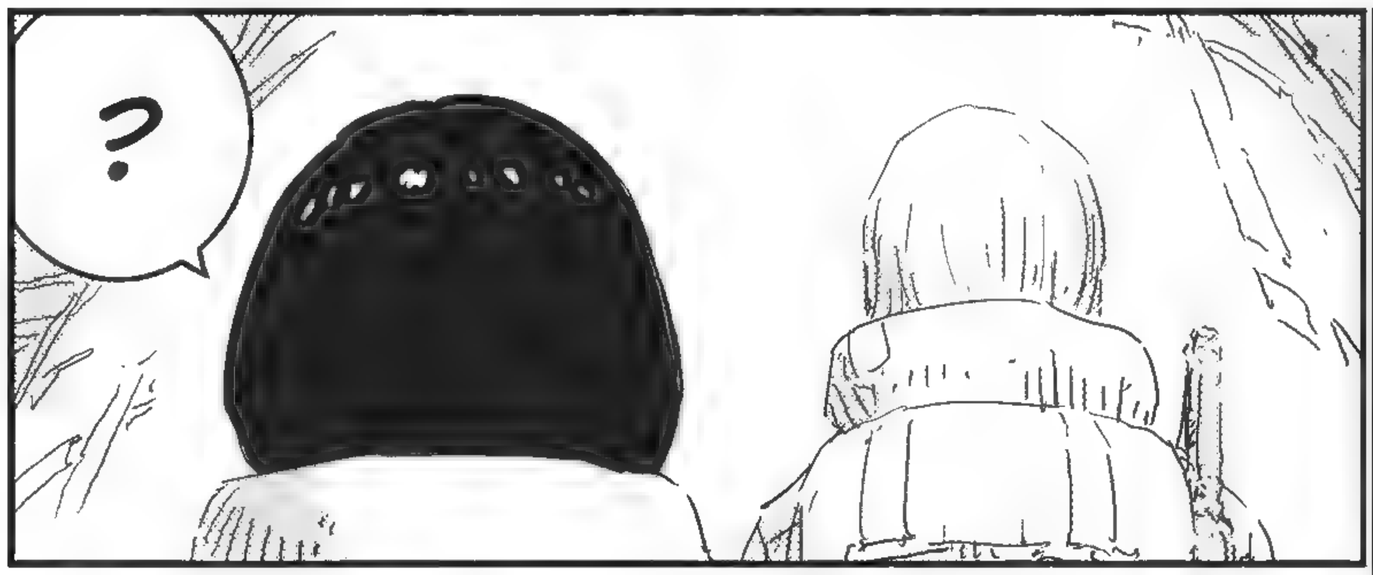
YEAH, SERIOUSLY ...
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO LEAVE SO SUDDENLY ?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY OFF *THAT* QUICKLY, DO YOU?


I'M REALLY SORRY, EVERYBODY ...
...
...

I WILL!




ETHEROW! TAKE GOOD CARE OF KEISHA!
SO YOU HAVE TO GO. IF ONLY I'D FOUND A COMPATIBLE CODE, TOO, THEN...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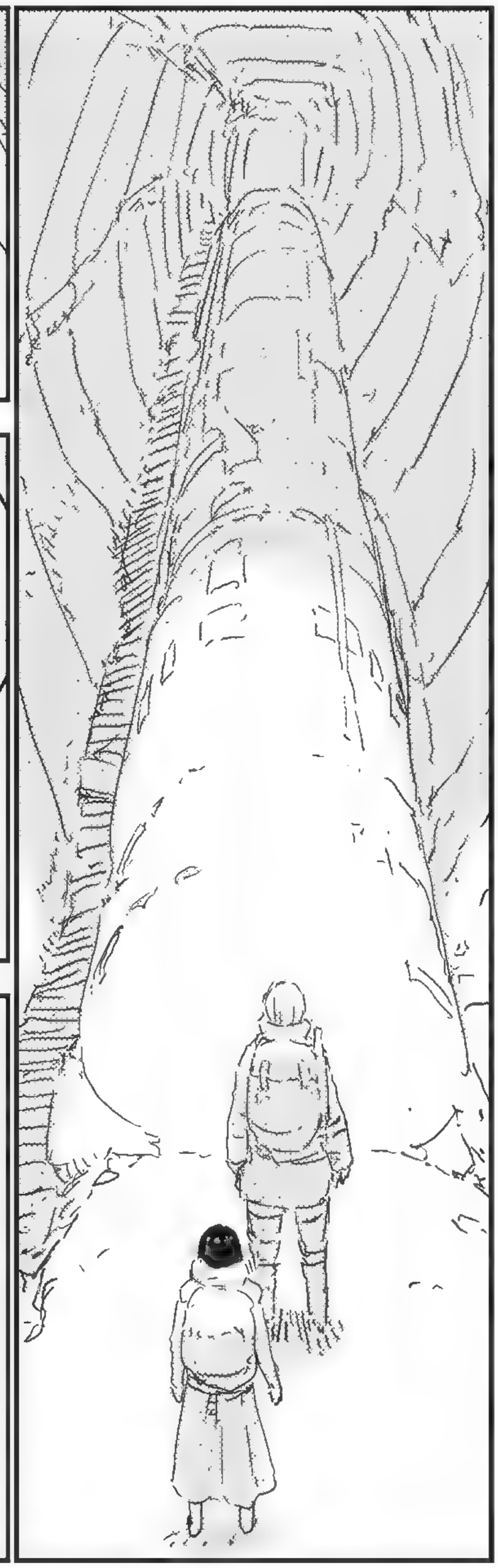
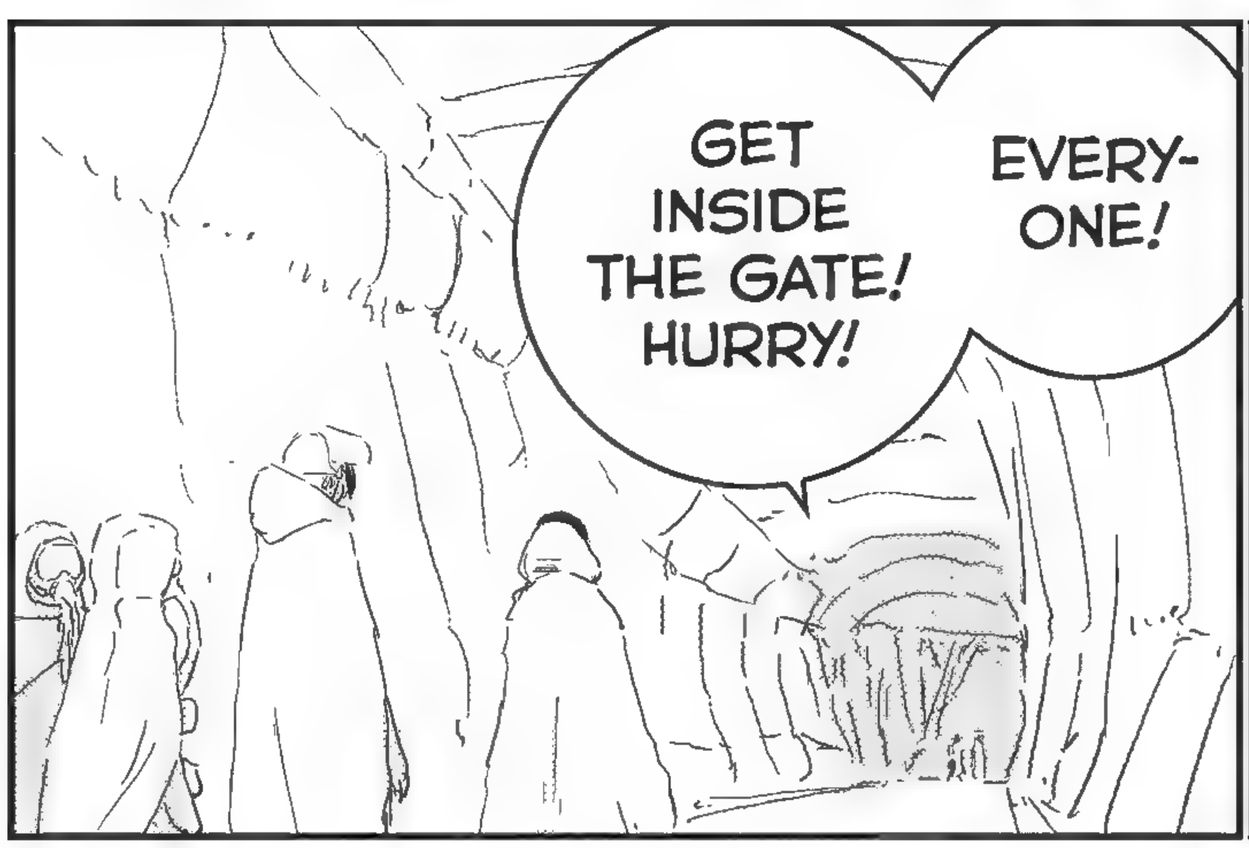
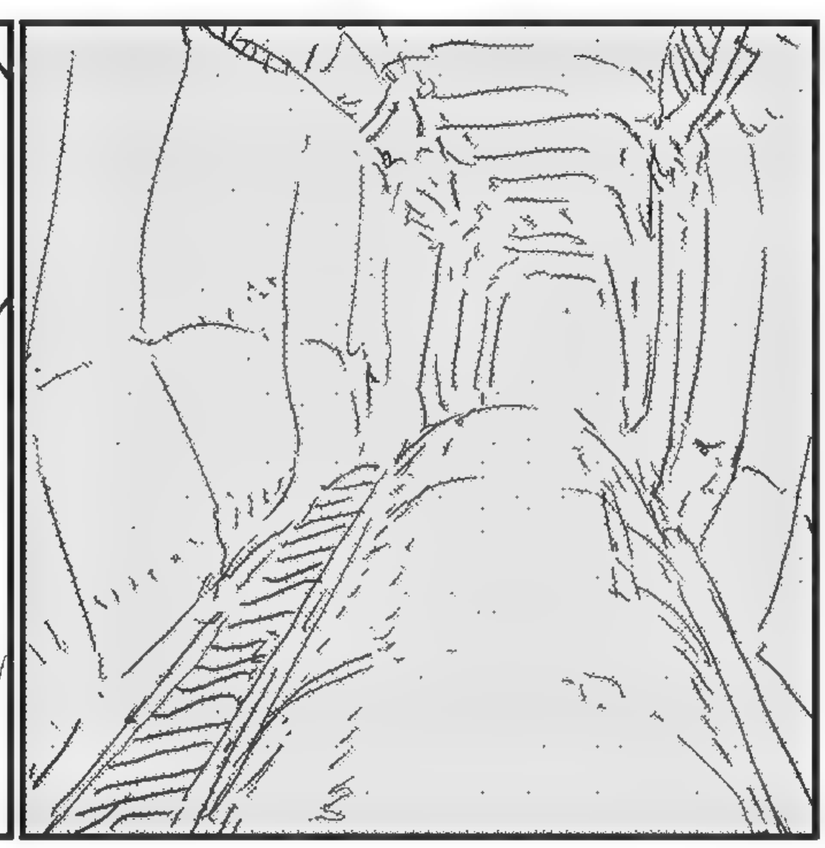
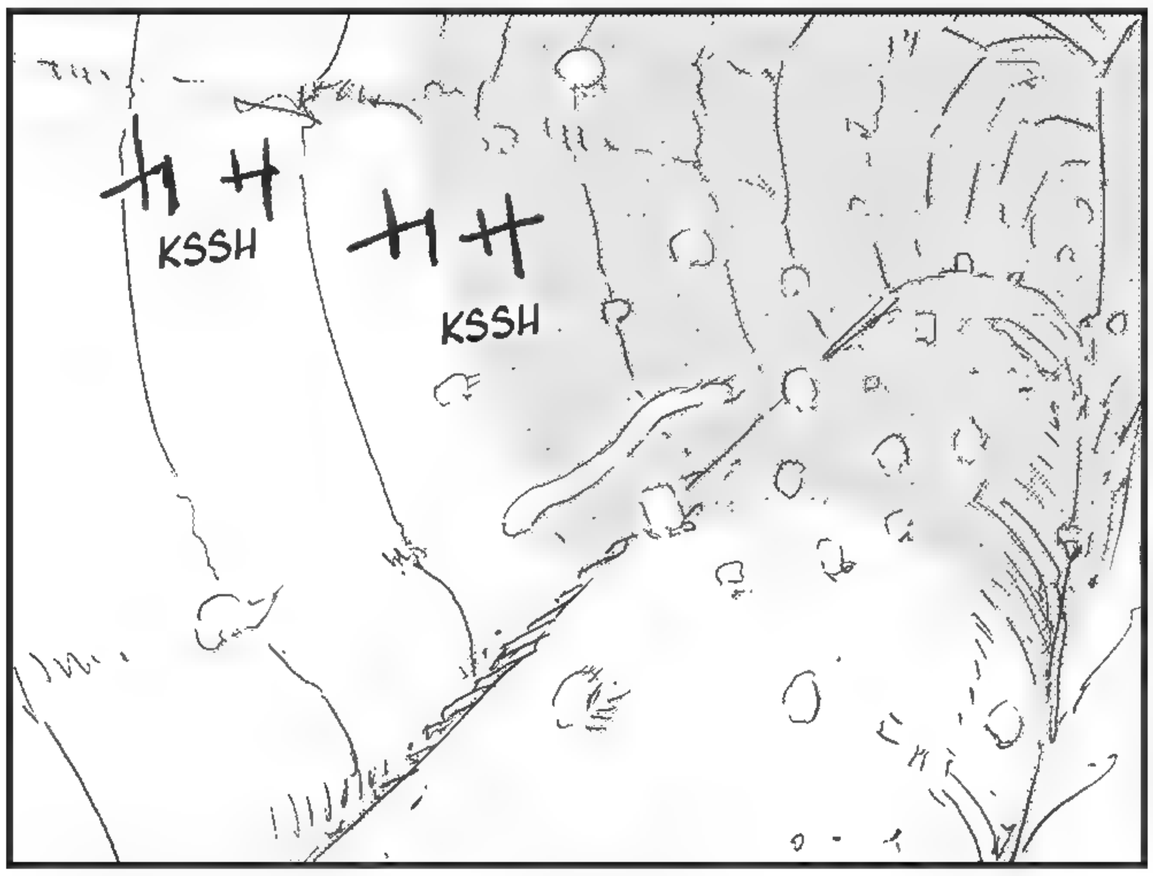
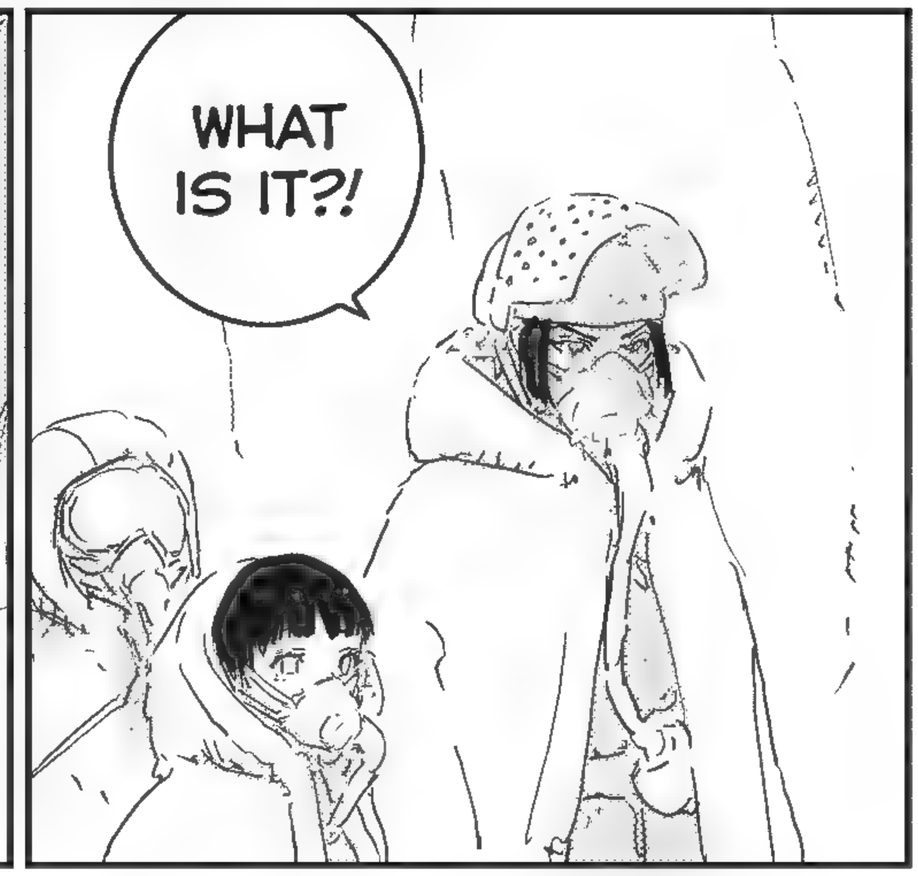


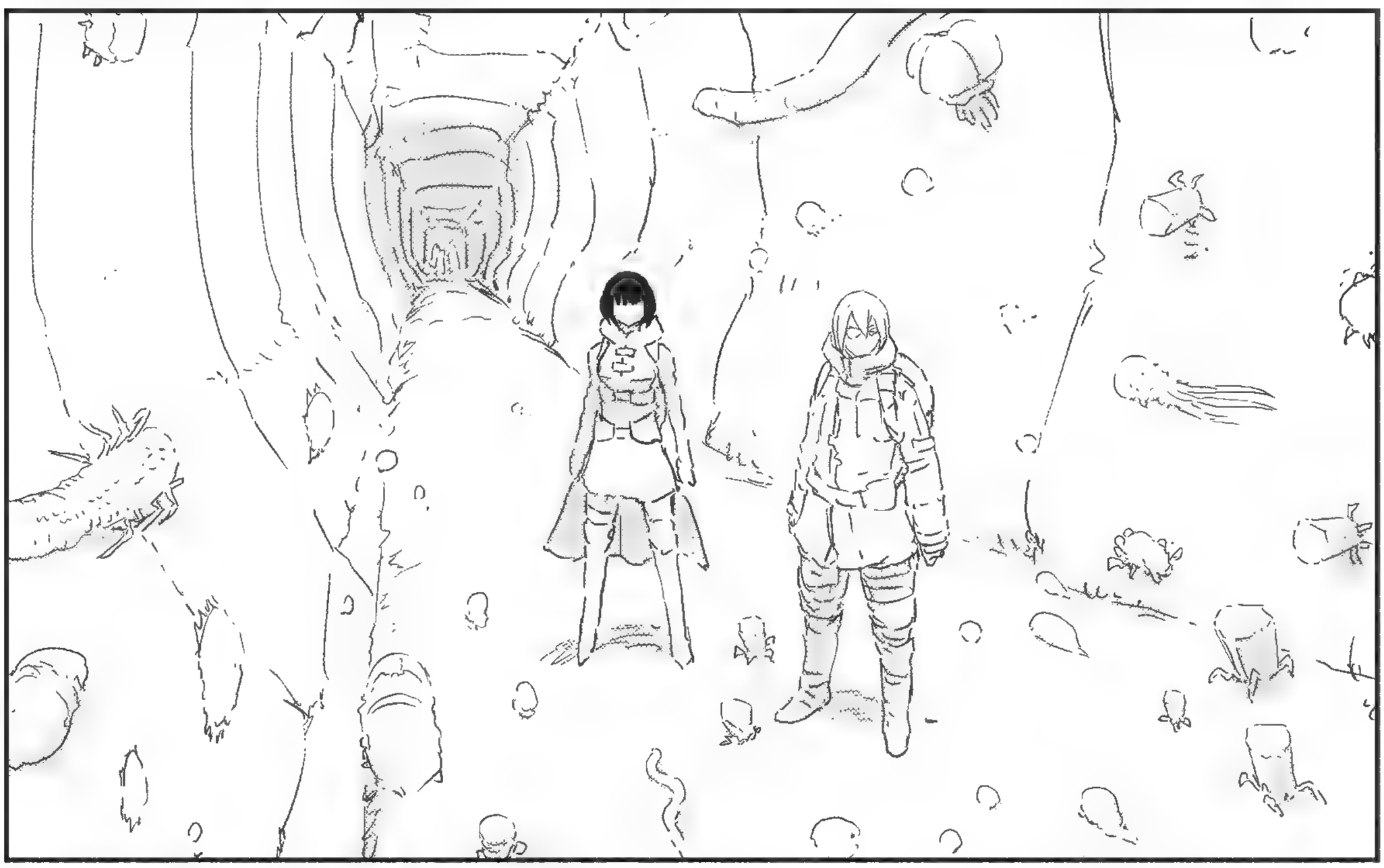
GET THEM ALL BACK RIGHT NOW!

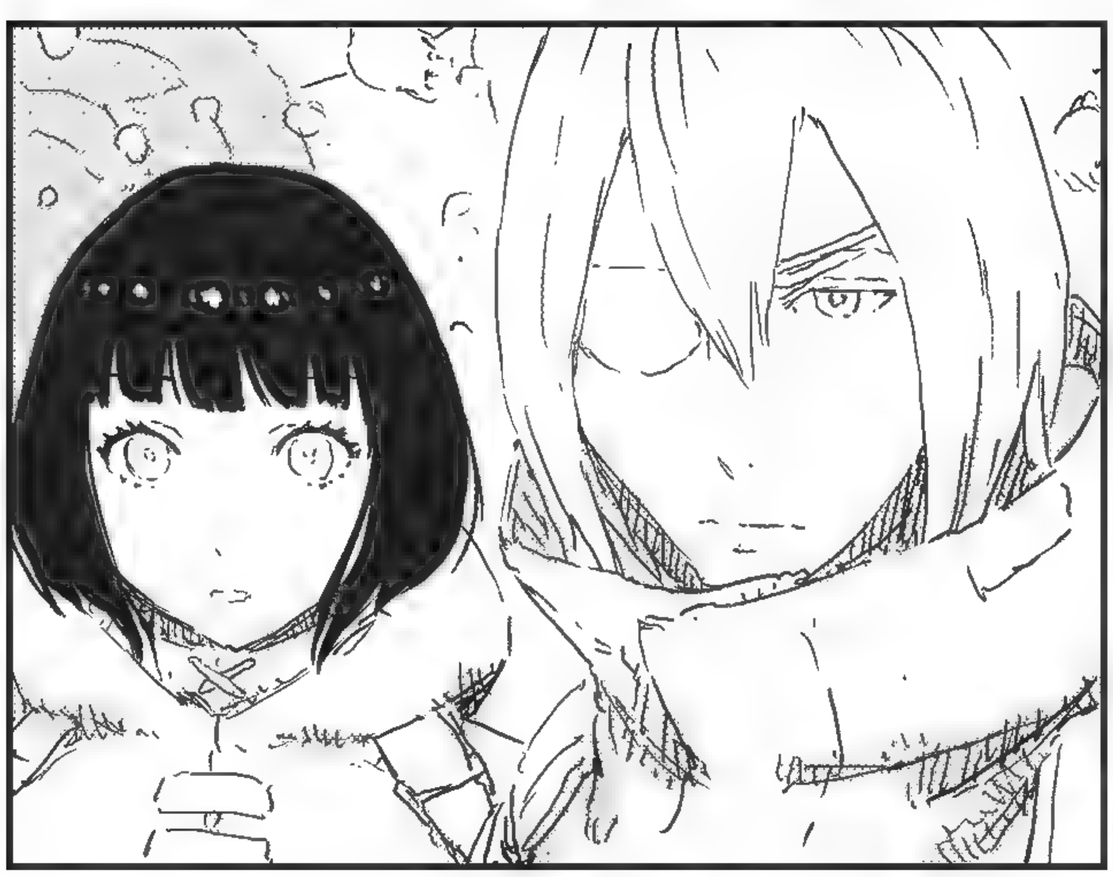

GET INSIDE THE GATE! HURRY!
EVERY-ONE!

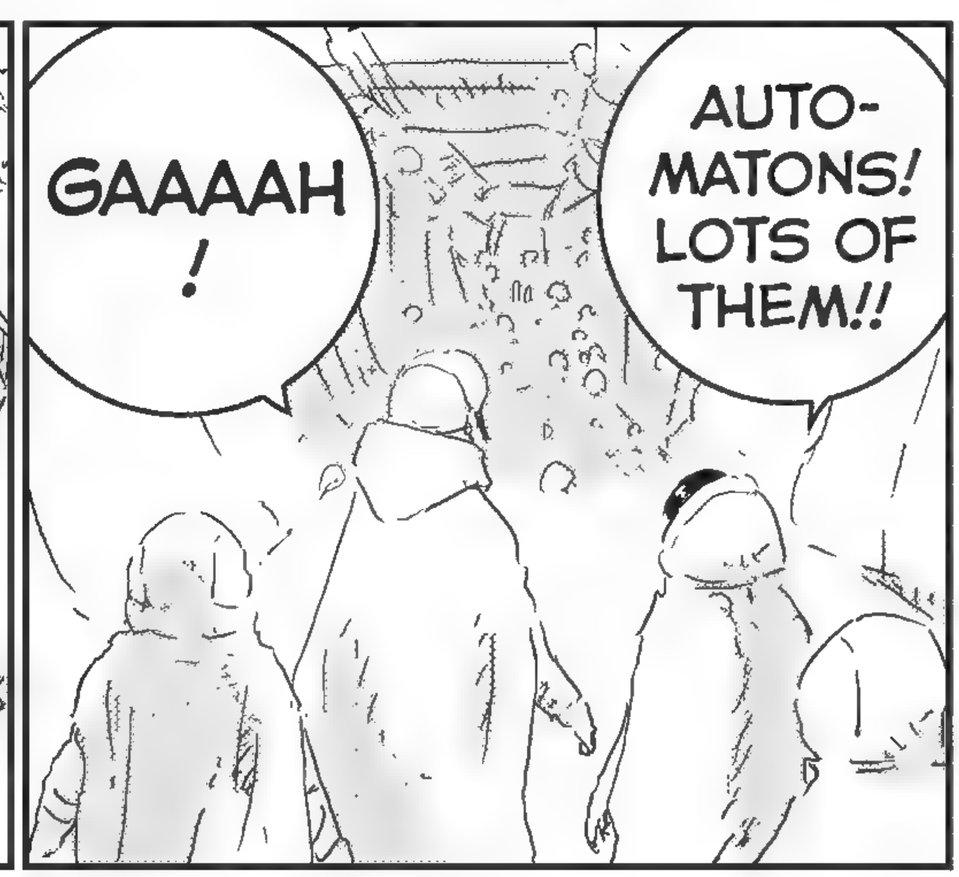


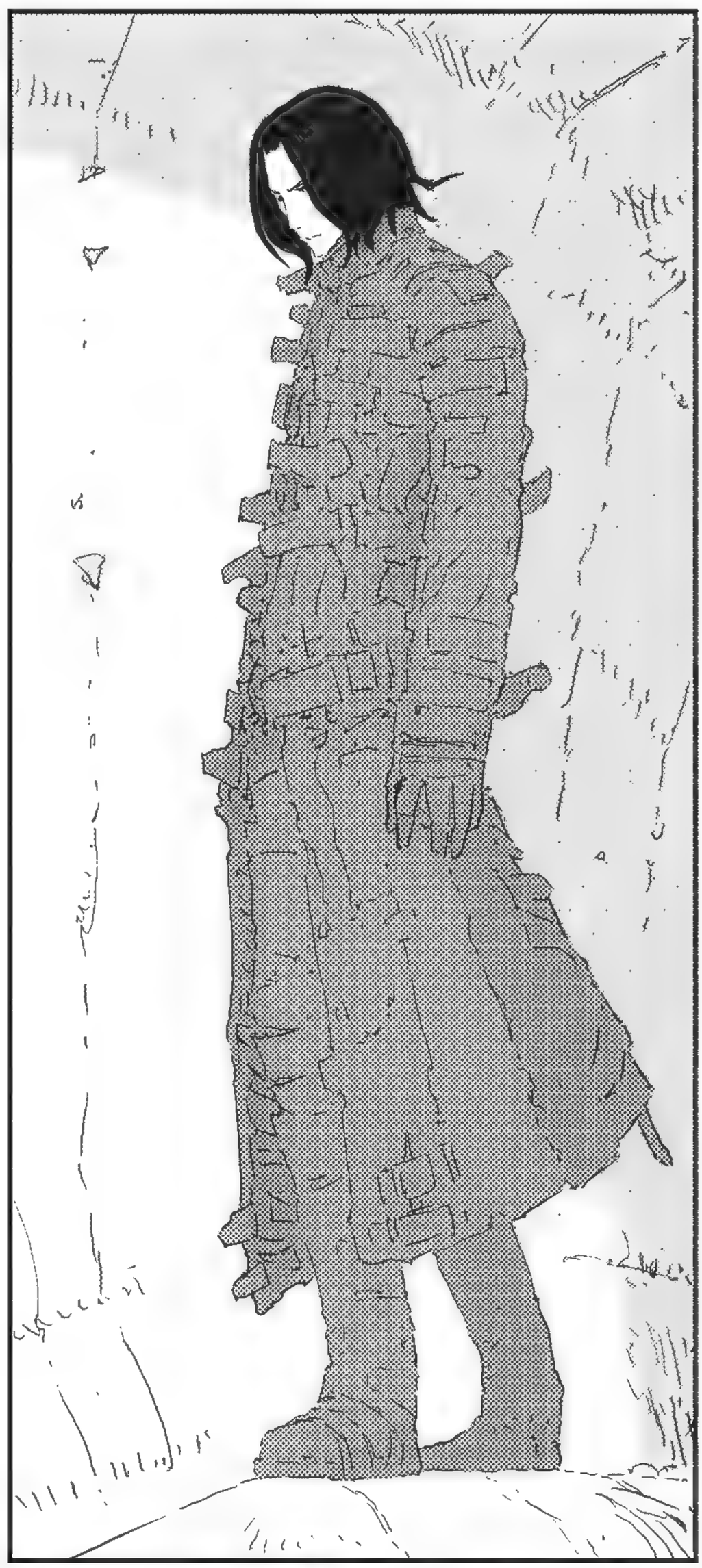

KSSH
KSSH

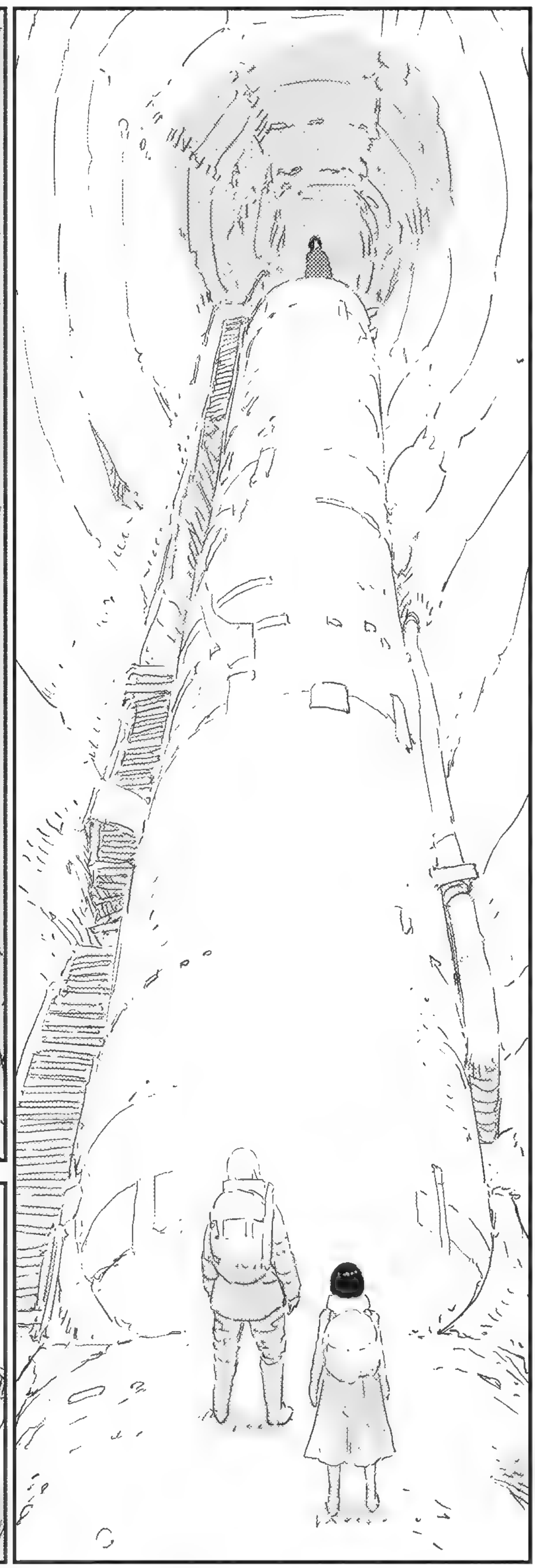

WHAT IS IT?!

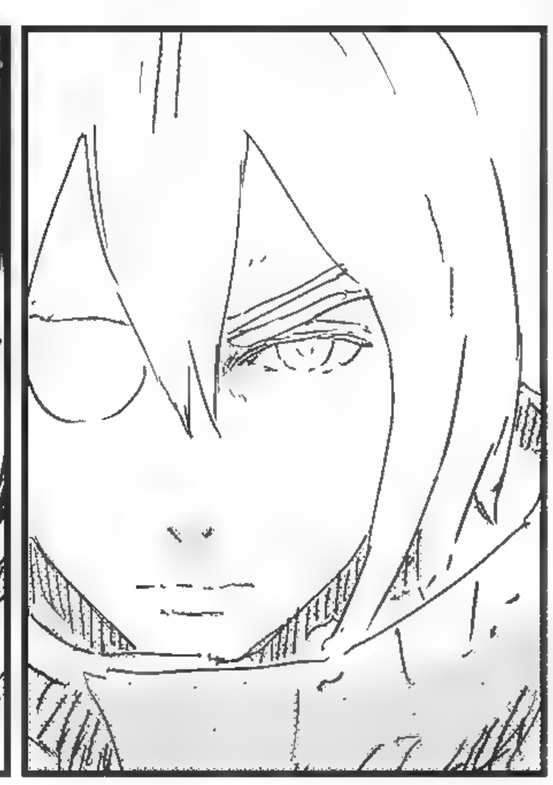





GAAAAH!
AUTO-MATONS! LOTS OF THEM!!

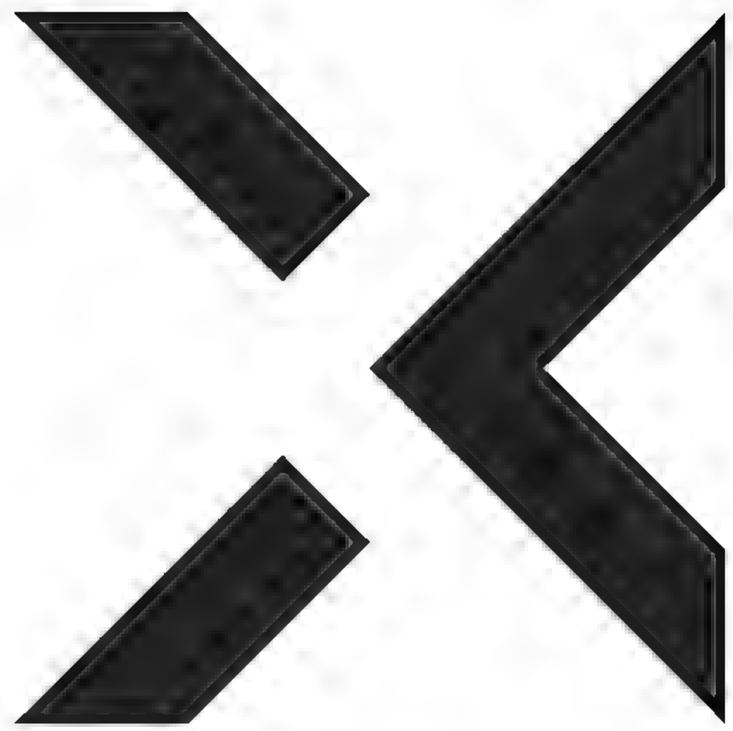




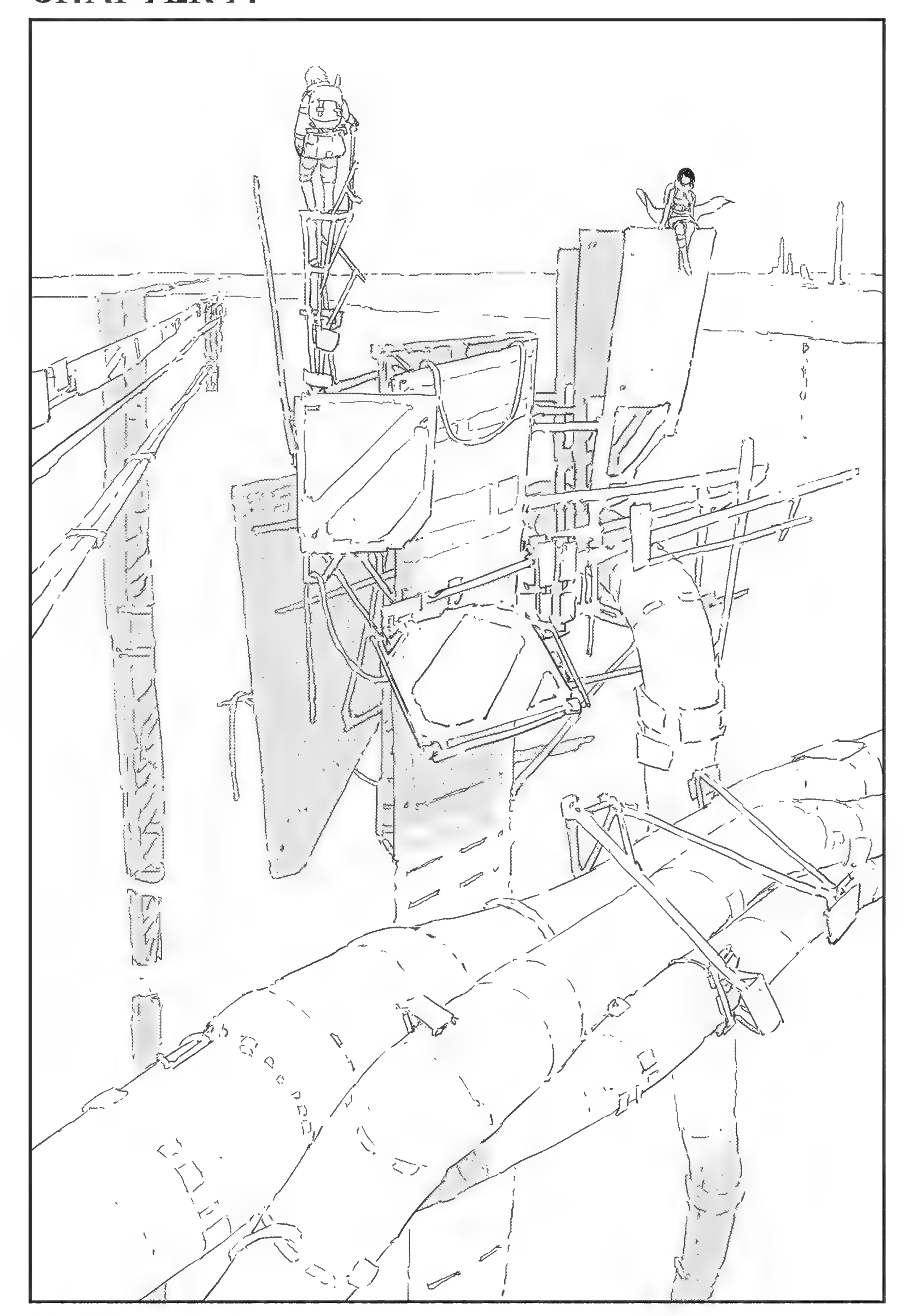


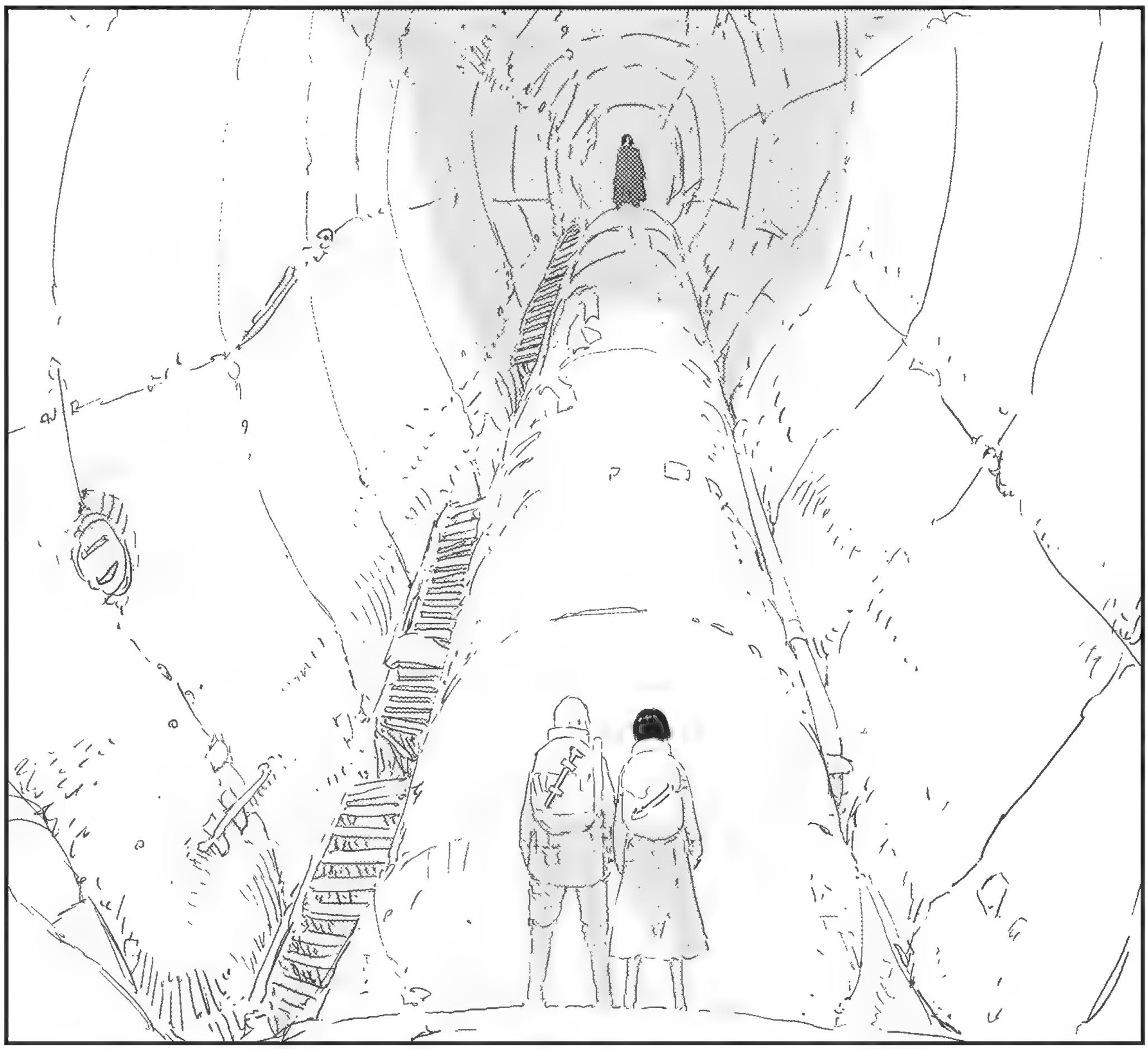
CHAPTER 13 END

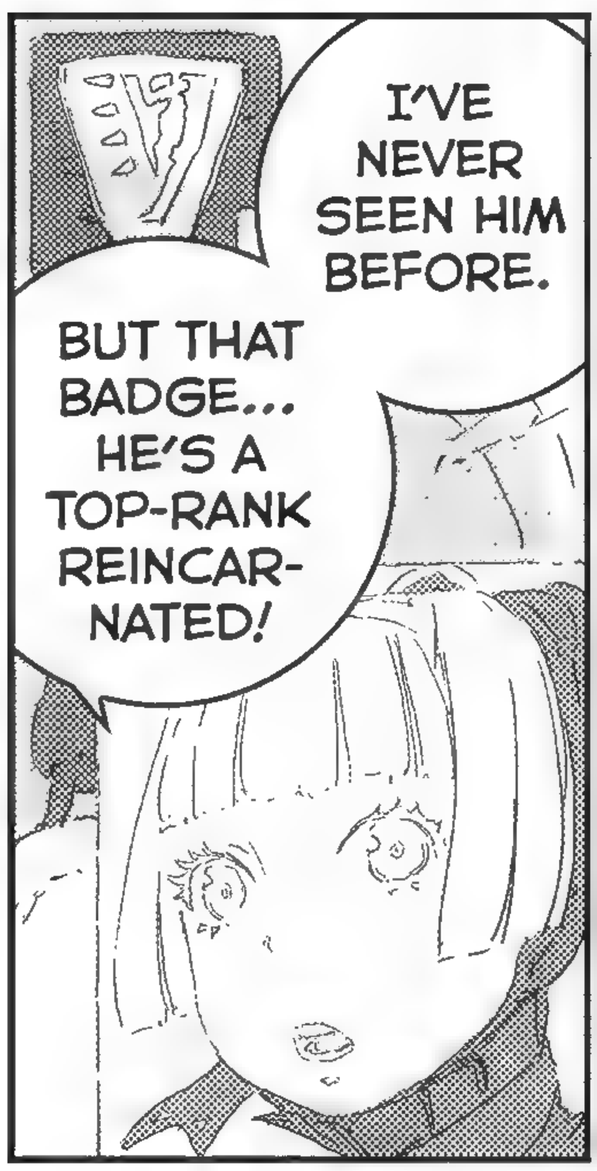
APOSIMZ

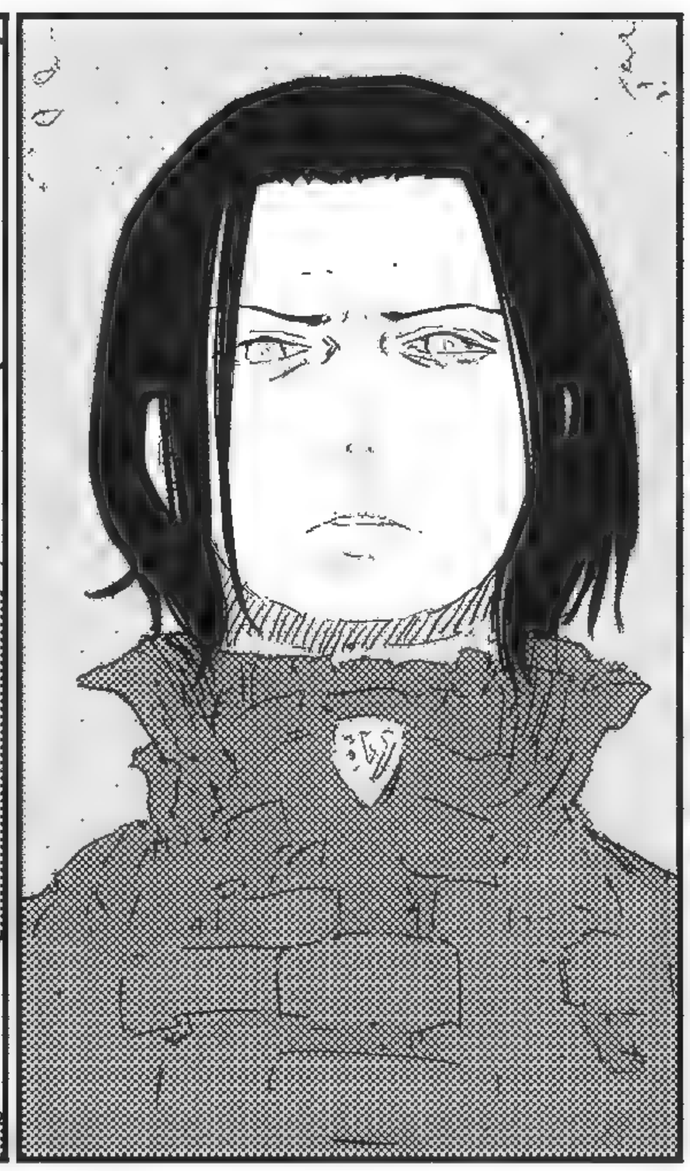


CHAPTER 14

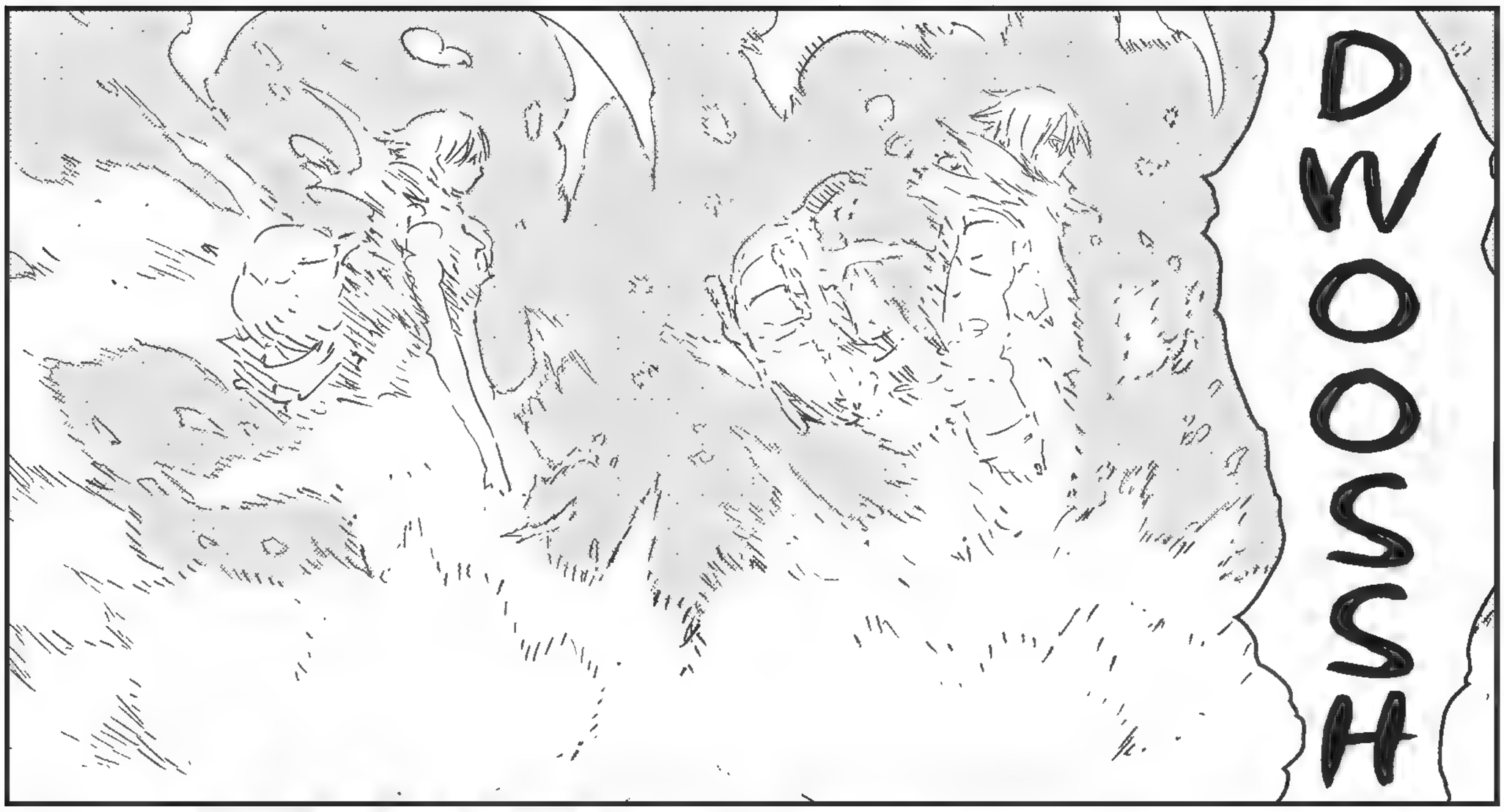


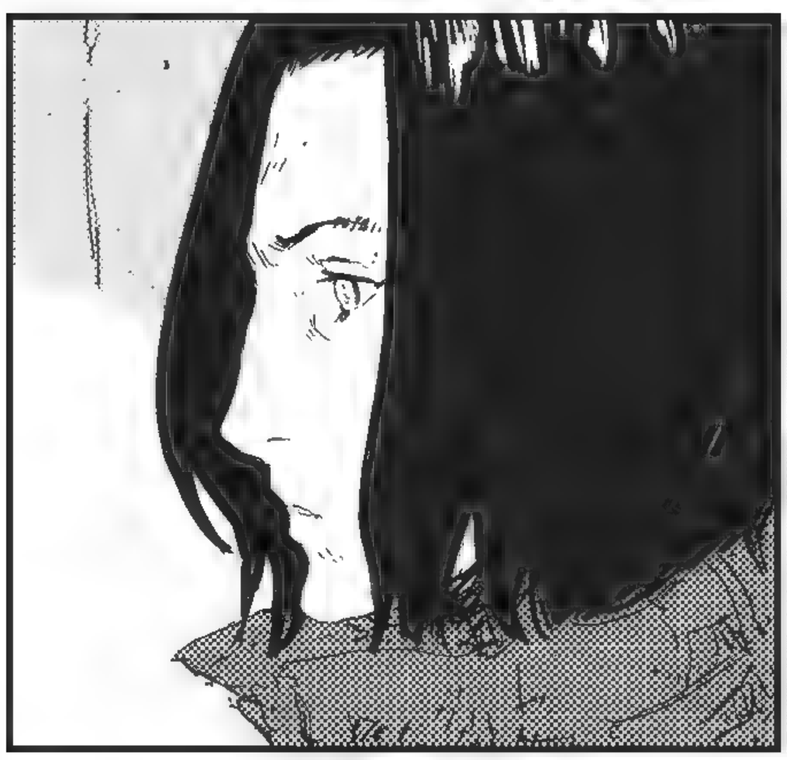


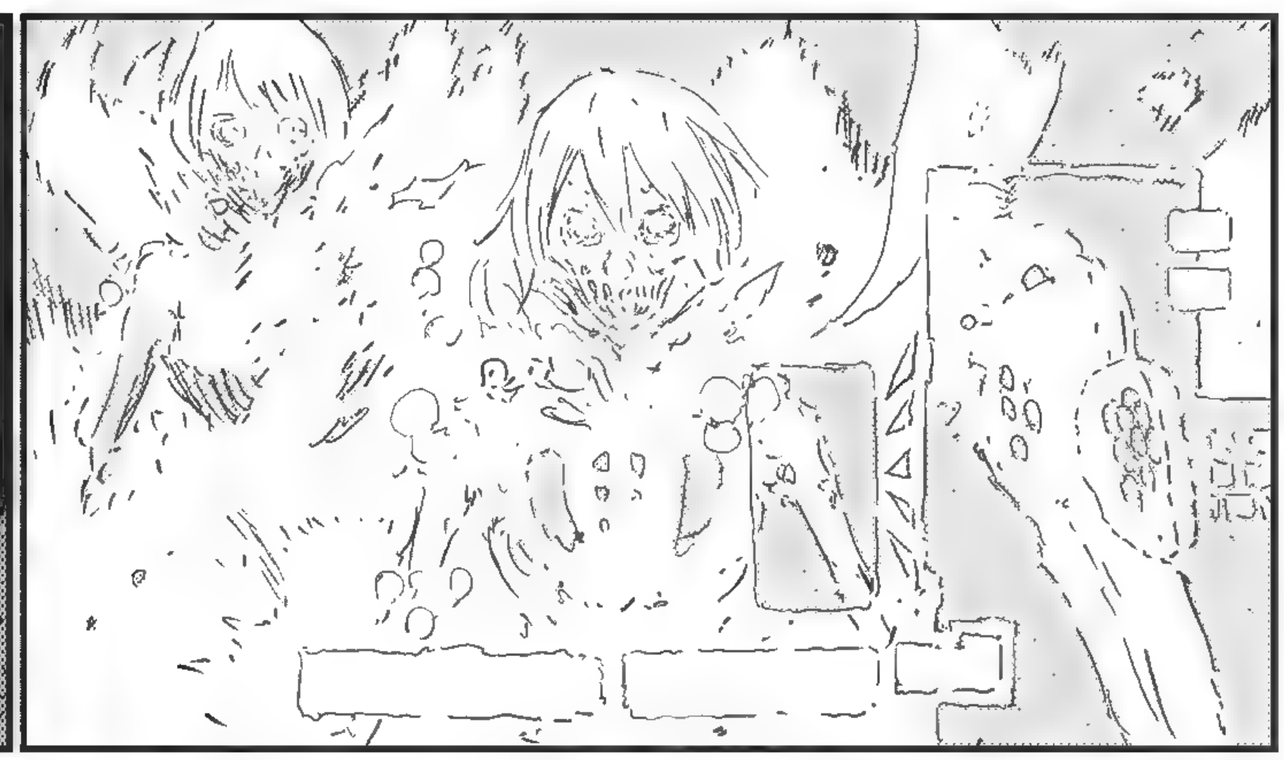

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.
BUT THAT BADGE... HE'S A TOP-RANK REINCAR-NATED!



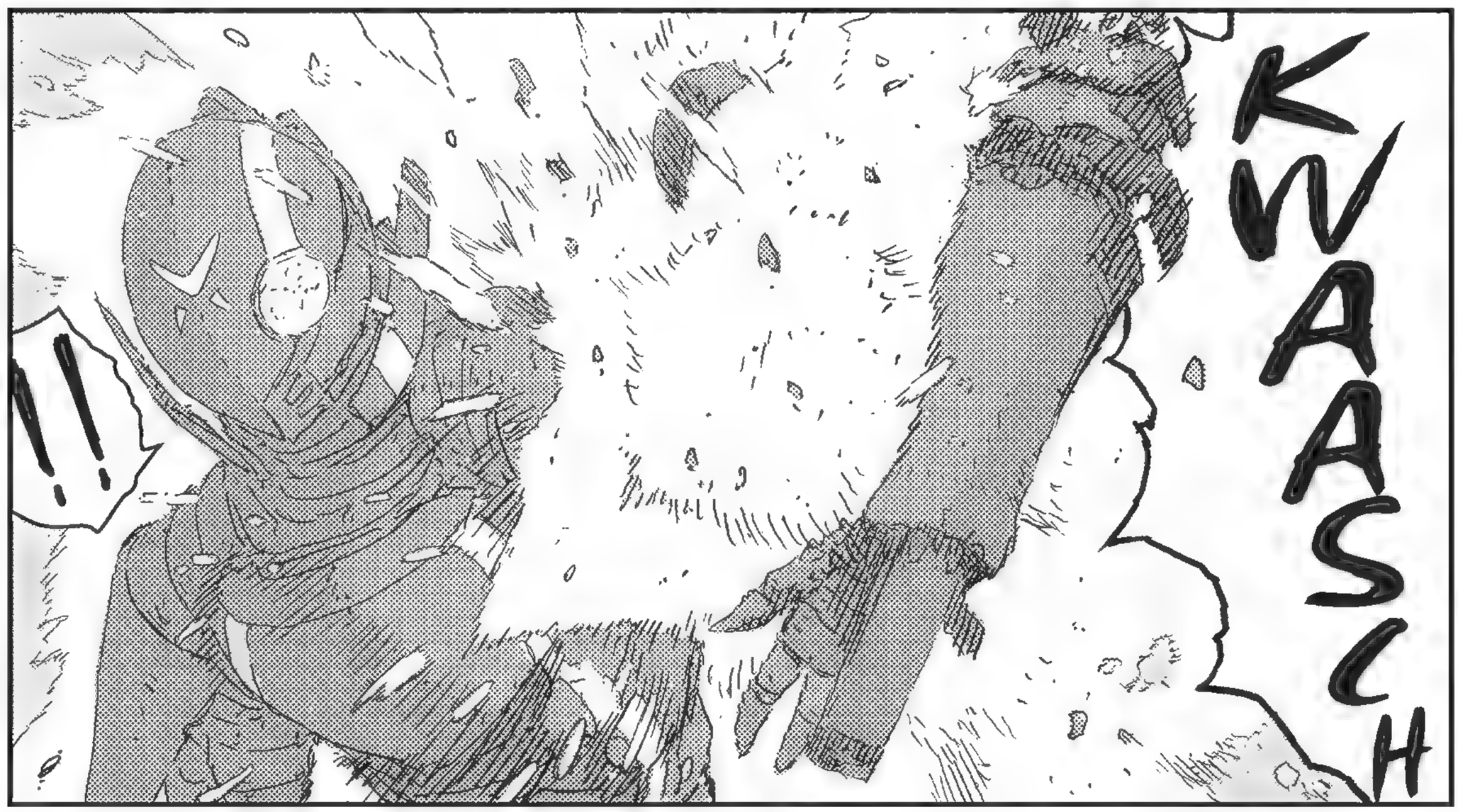
THE EMPIRE?! HOW DO THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE?!

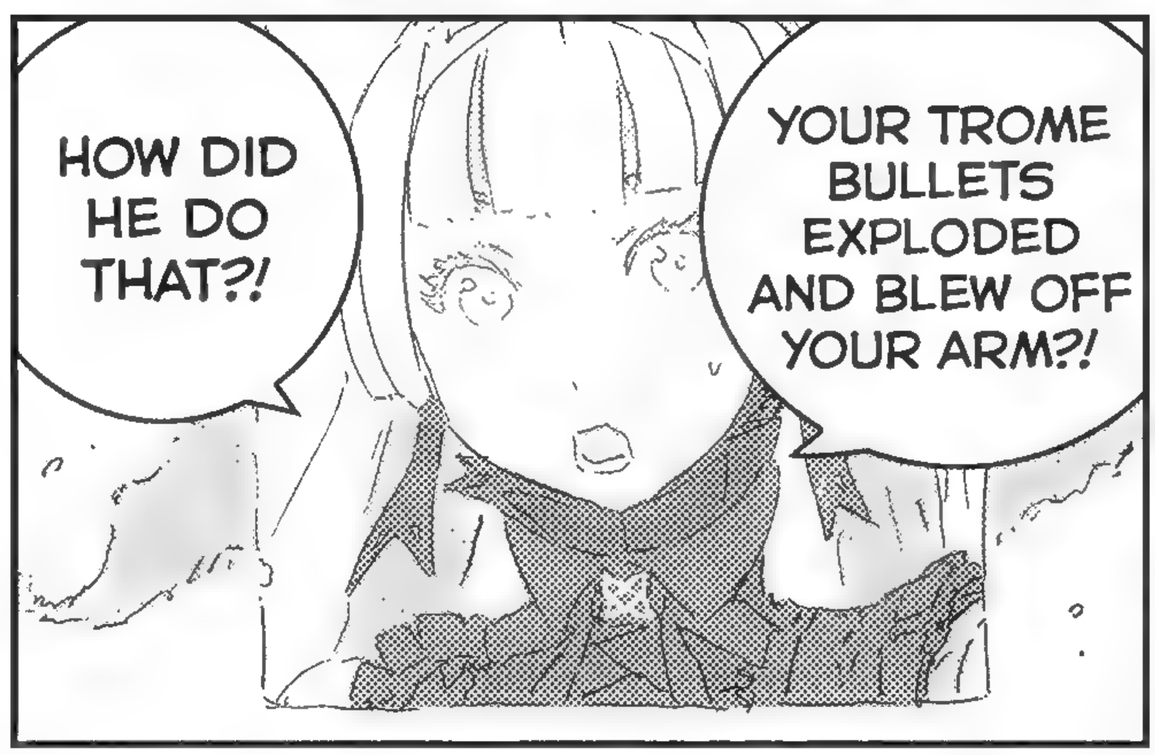

DWOOSSH

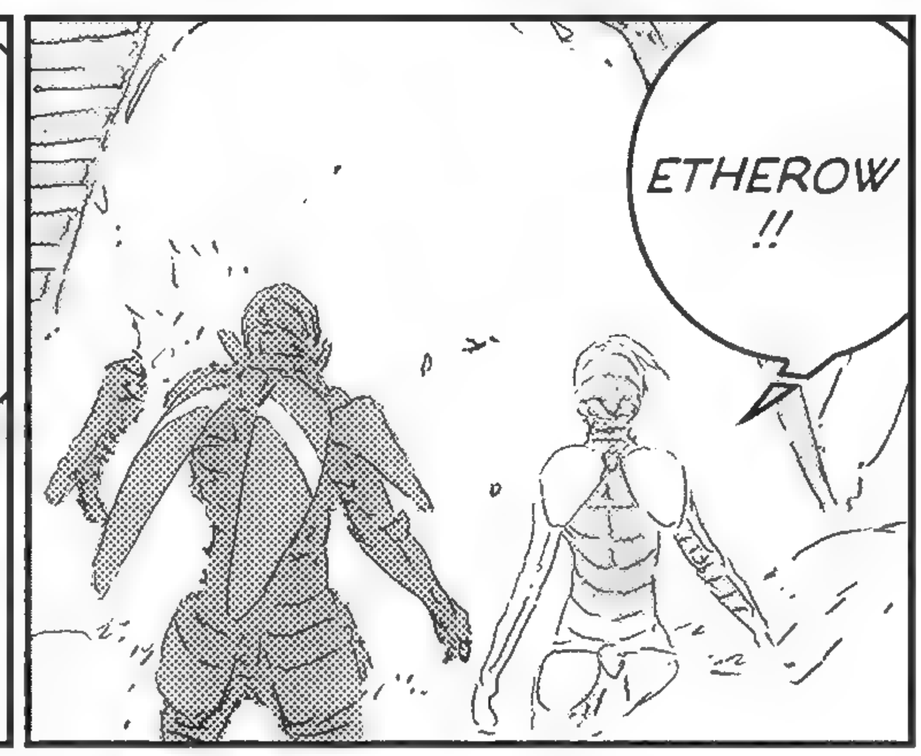




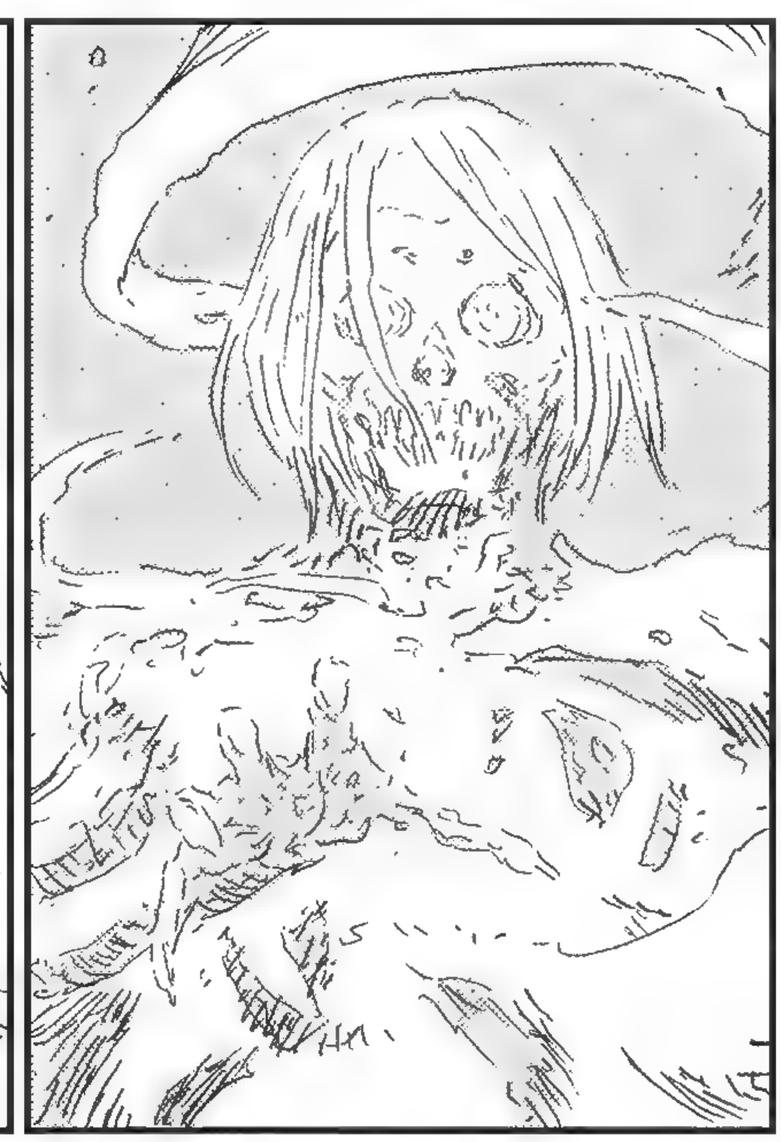
KSHAK!!

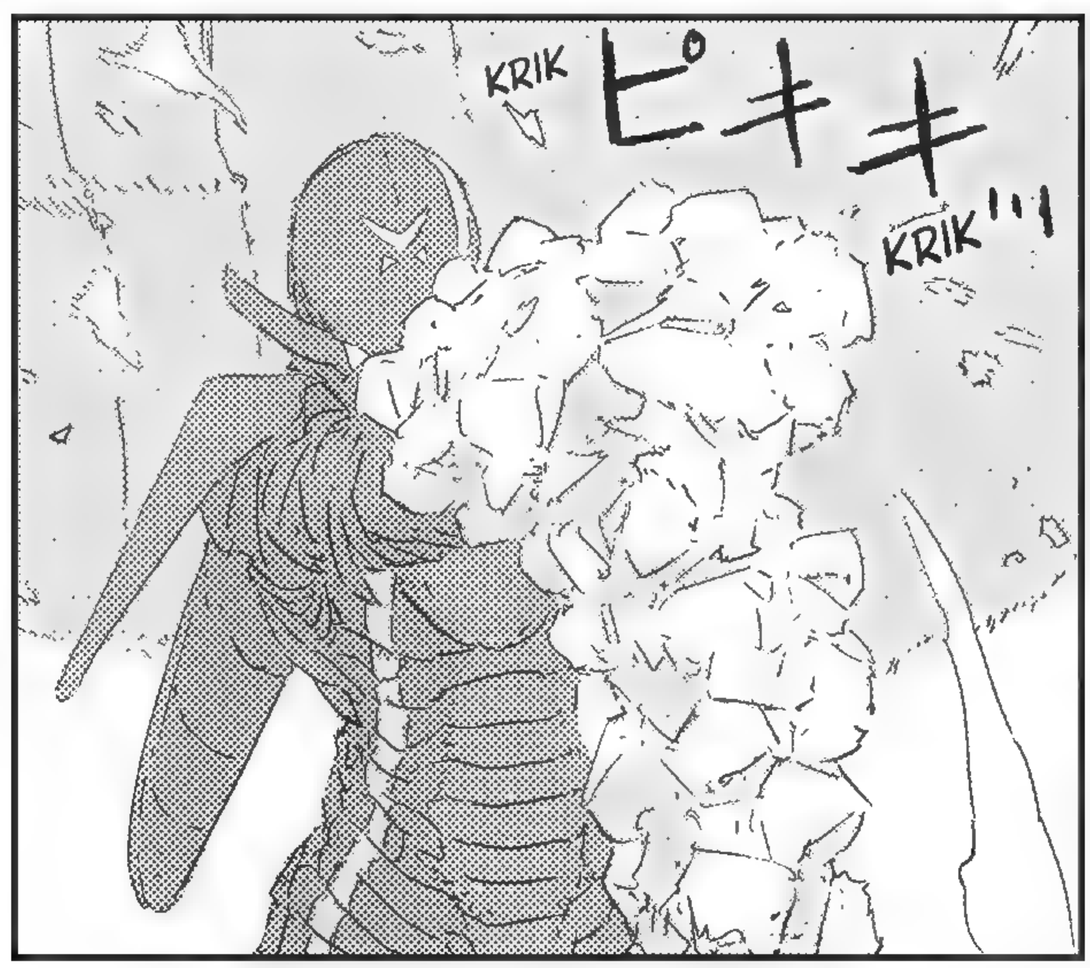

!!
KWASCH

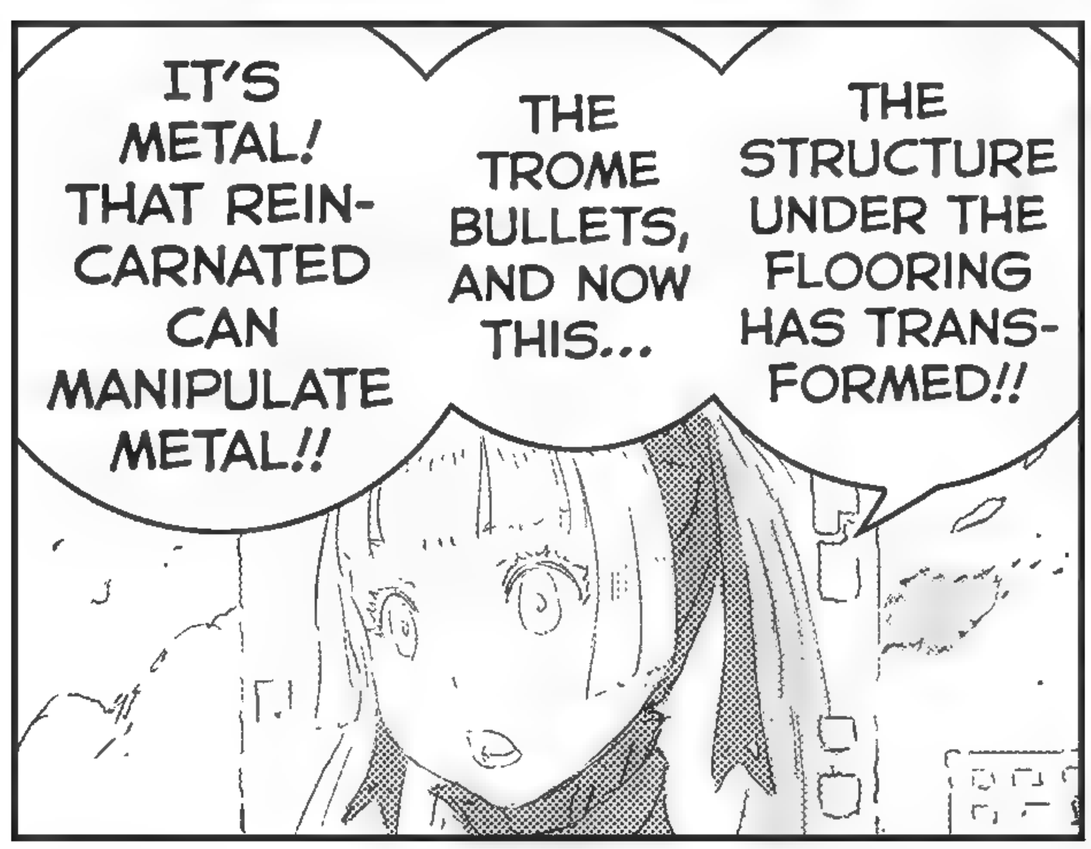

HOW DID HE DO THAT?!
YOUR TROME BULLETS EXPLODED AND BLEW OFF YOUR ARM?!

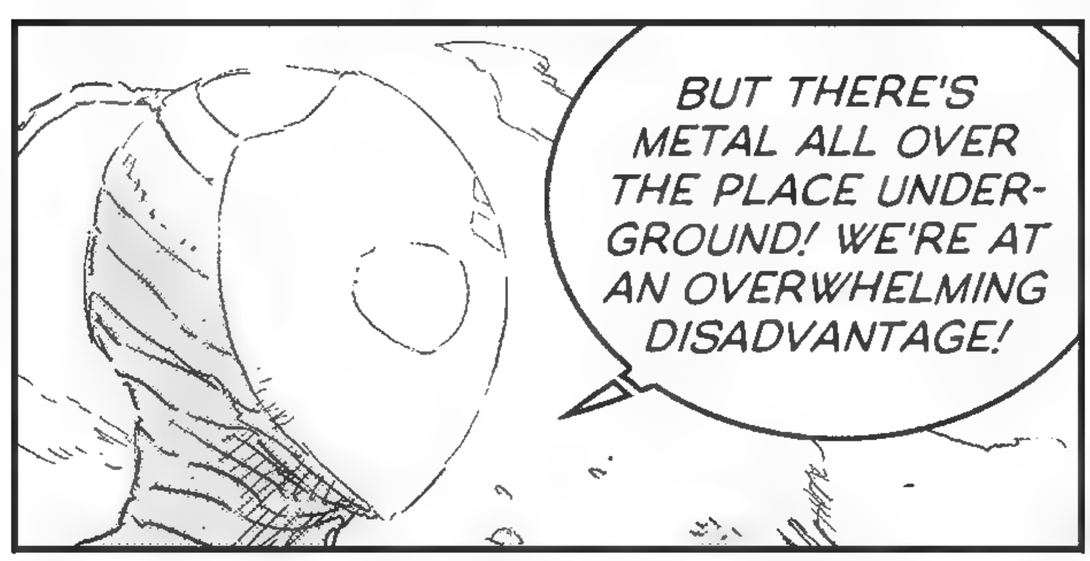

ETHEROW !!

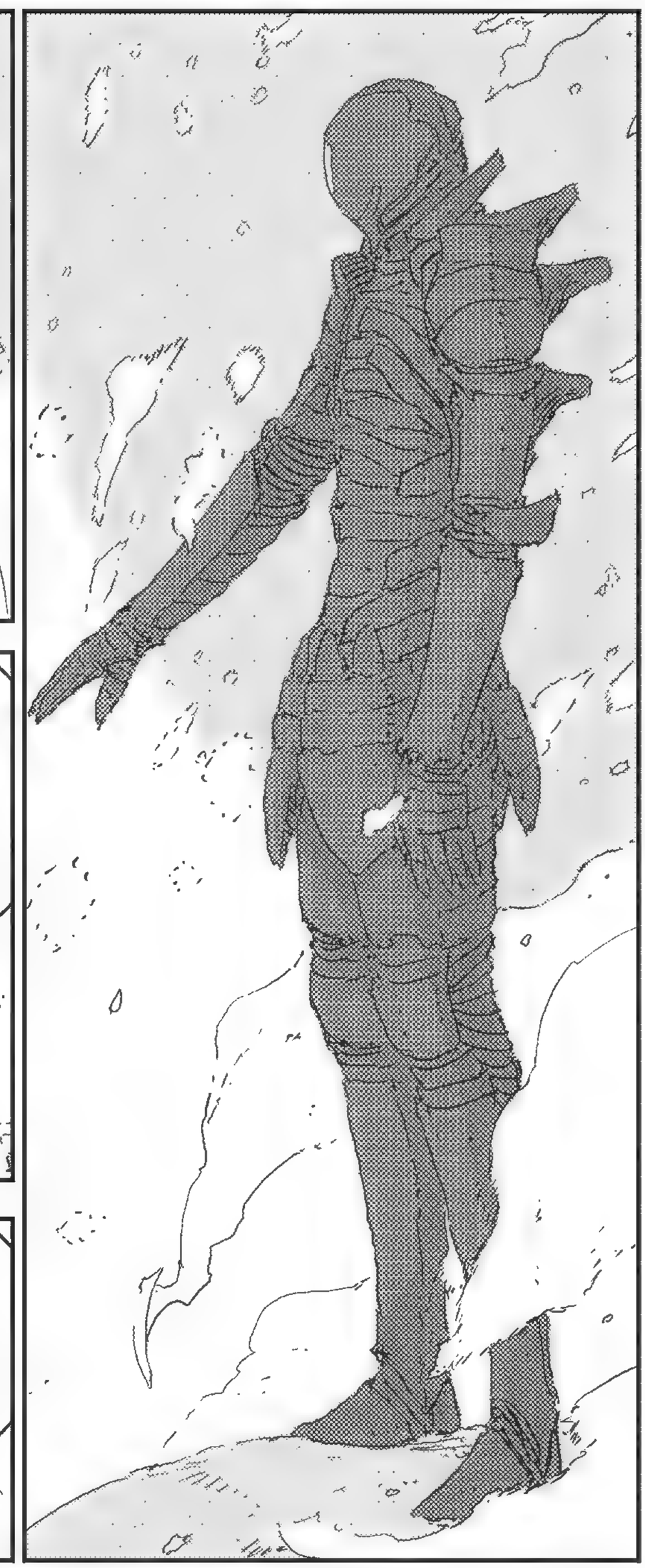
ピキン
PCHINK

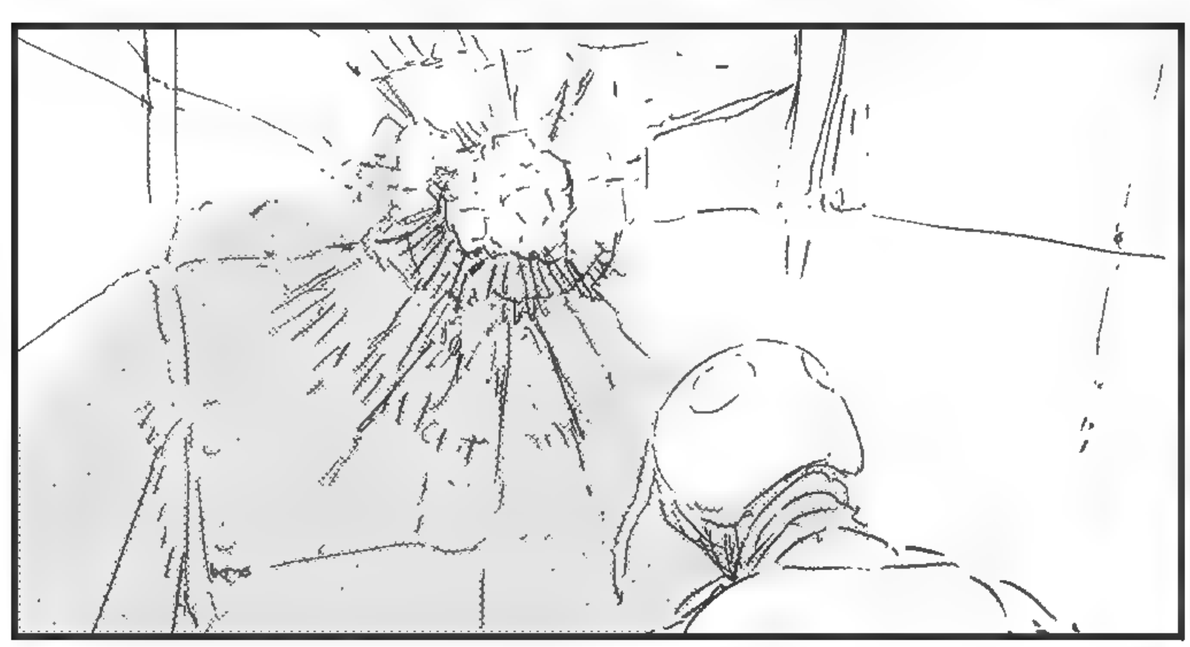


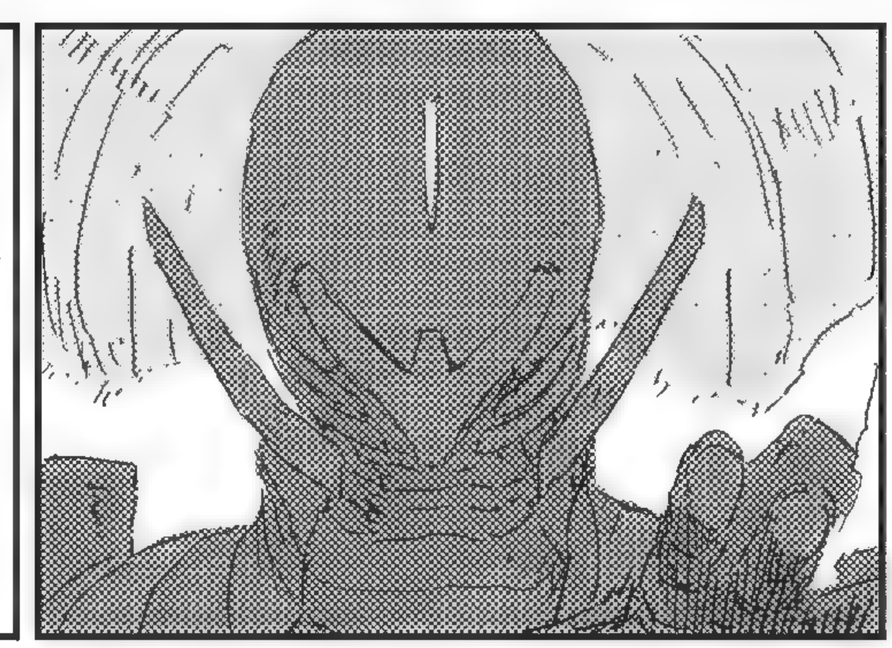

KRIK
ピキキ
KRIK!!!

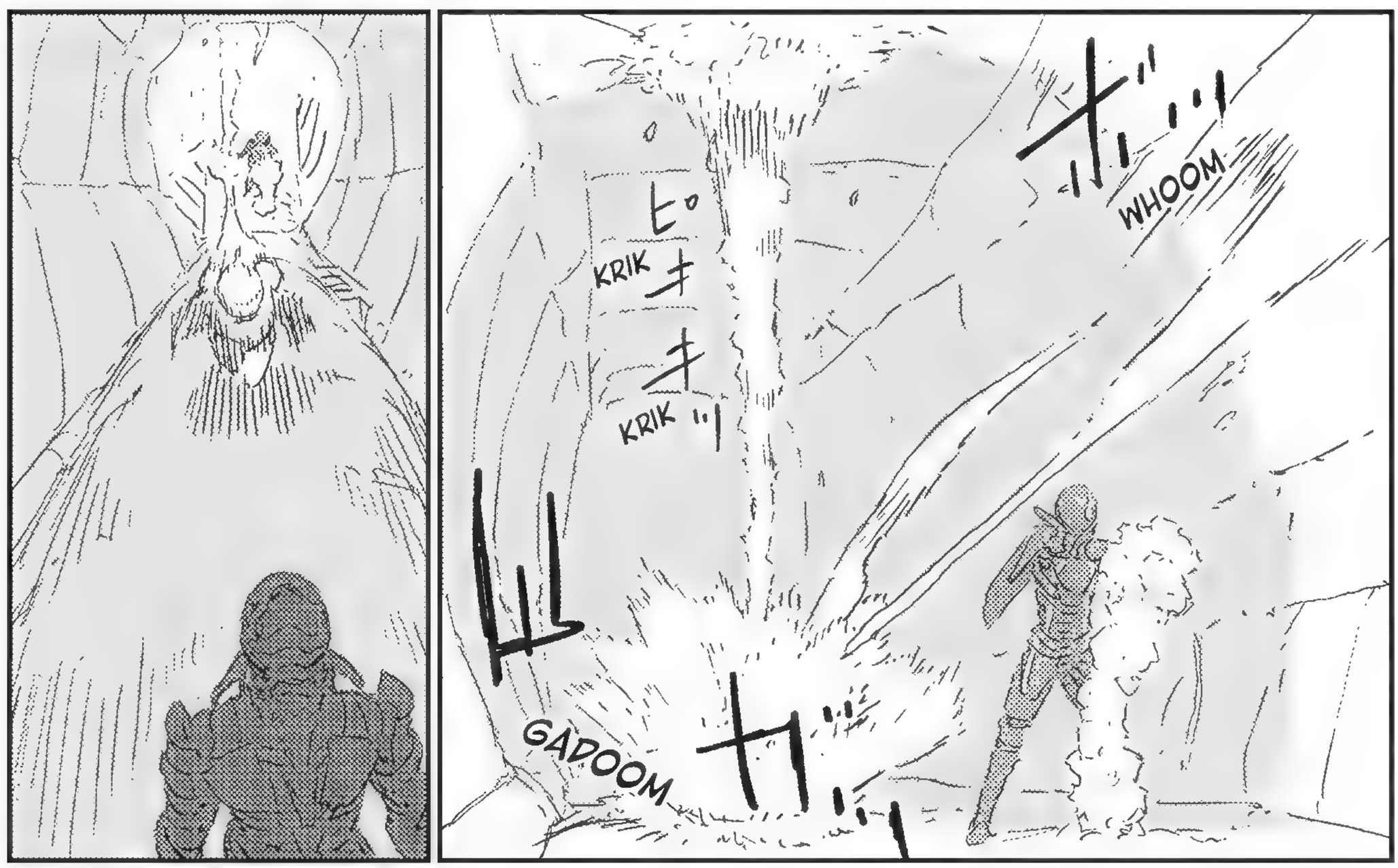

IT'S METAL! THAT REIN-CARNATED CAN MANIPULATE METAL!!
THE TROME BULLETS, AND NOW THIS...
THE STRUCTURE UNDER THE FLOORING HAS TRANS-FORMED!!

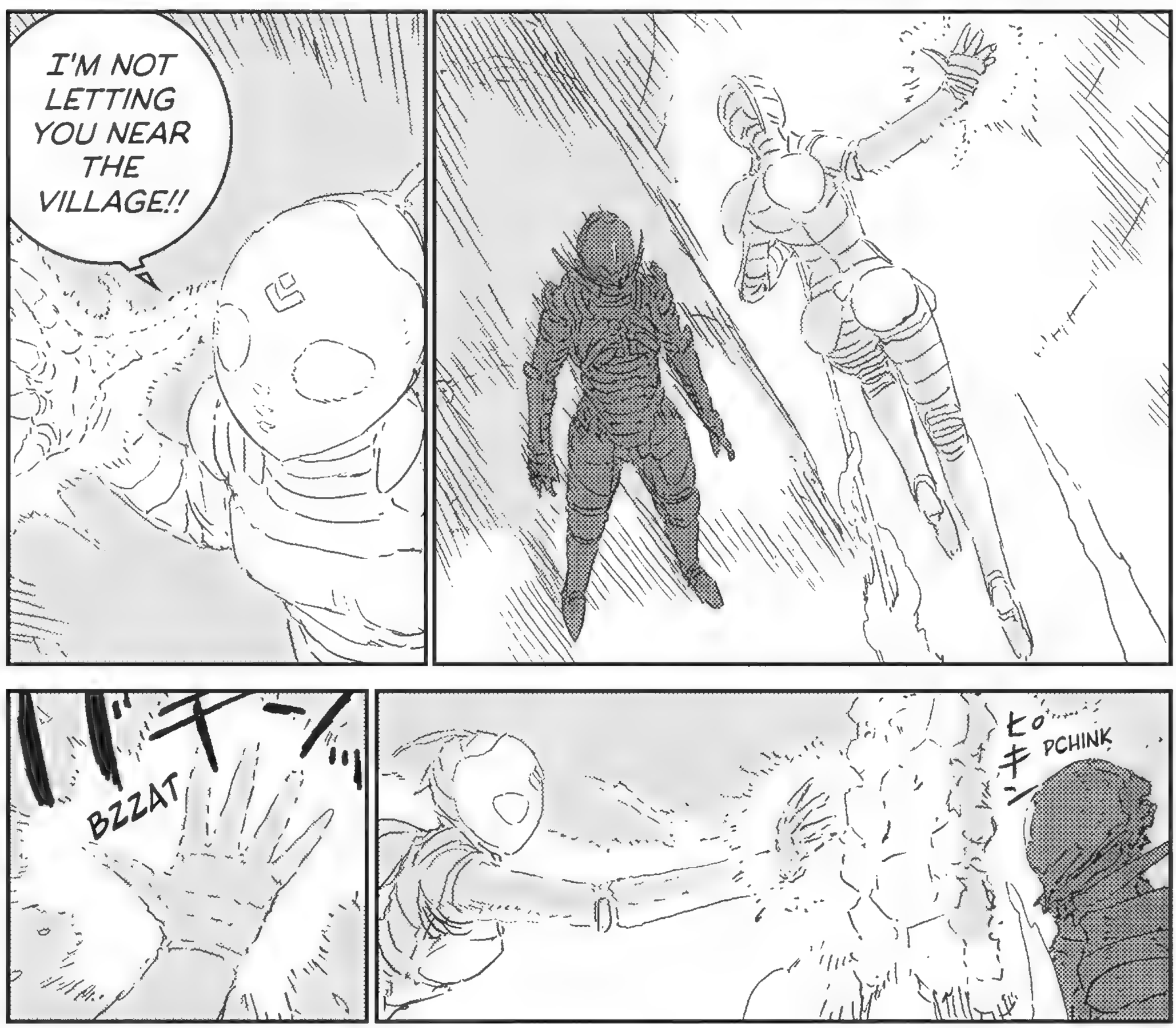

BUT THERE'S METAL ALL OVER THE PLACE UNDER-GROUND! WE'RE AT AN OVERWHELMING DISADVANTAGE!

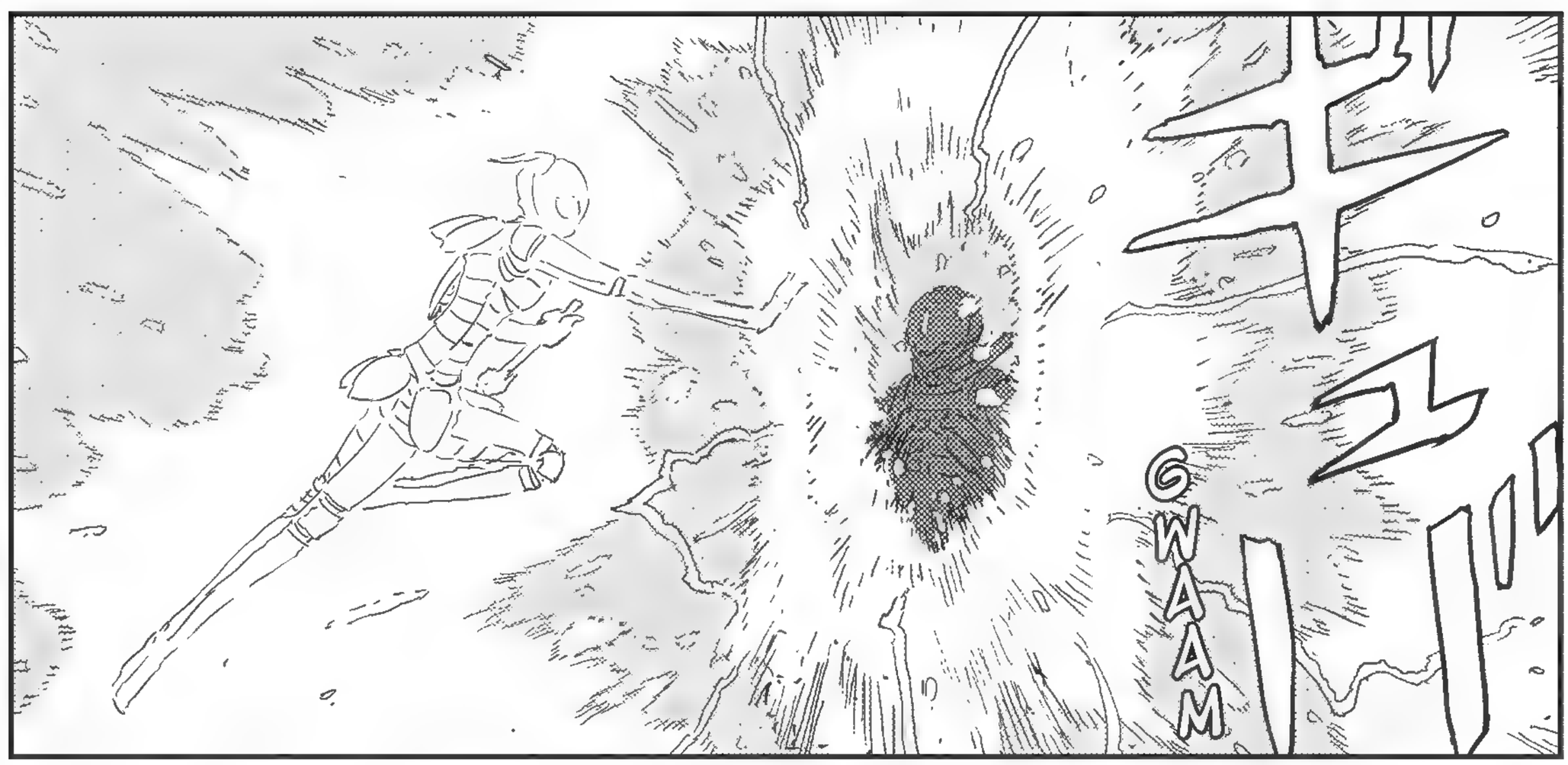




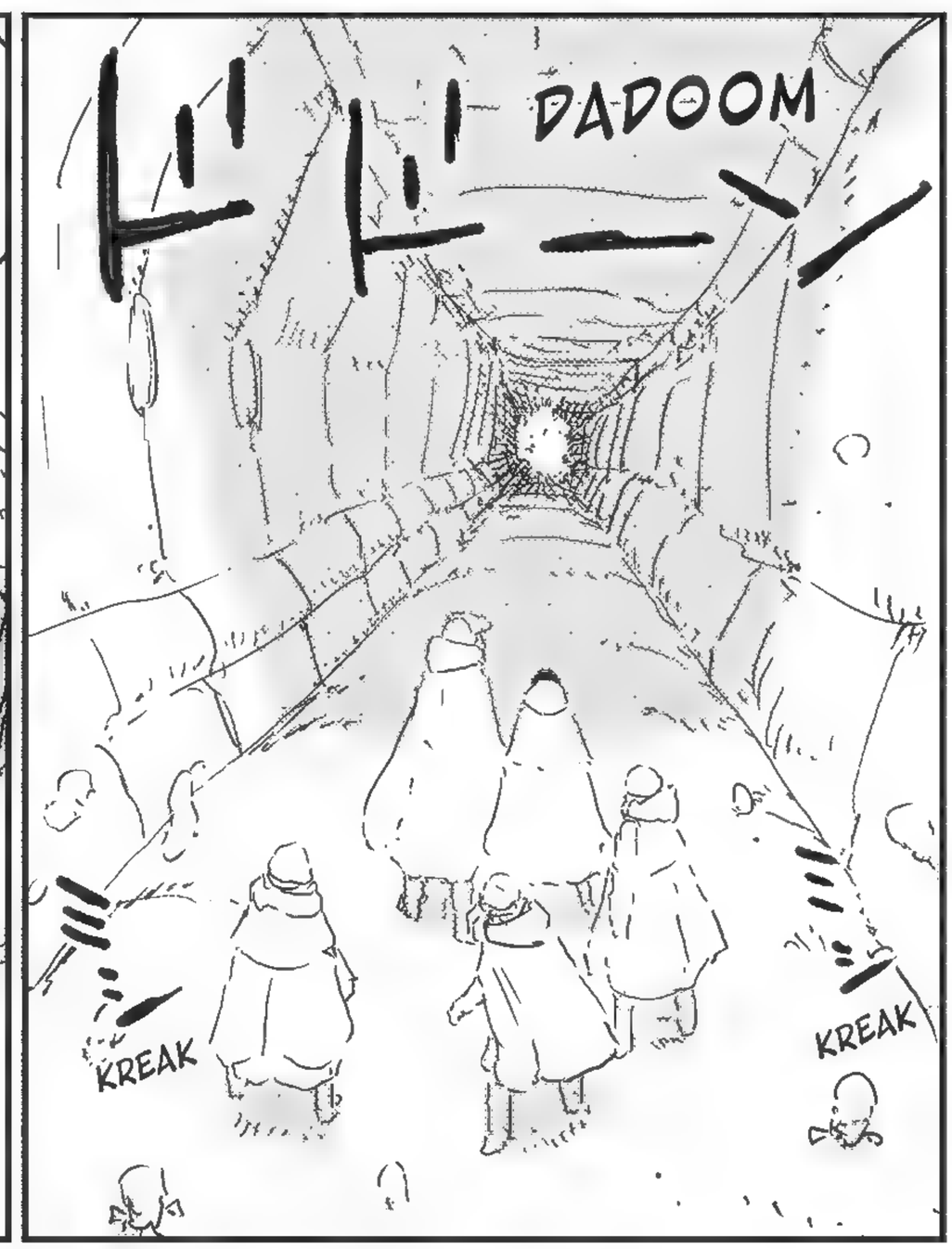


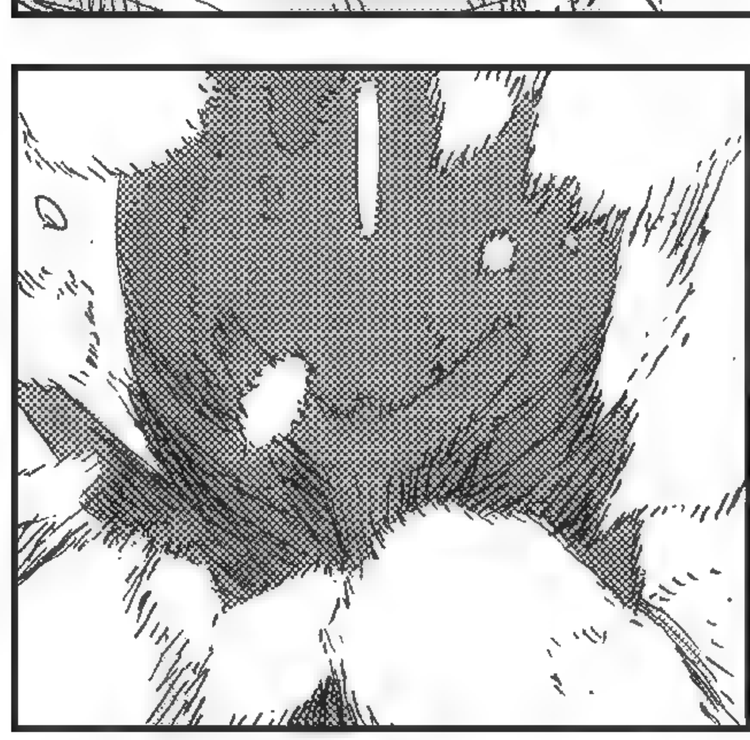

KRIK
KRIK
WHOOM
GADOOM

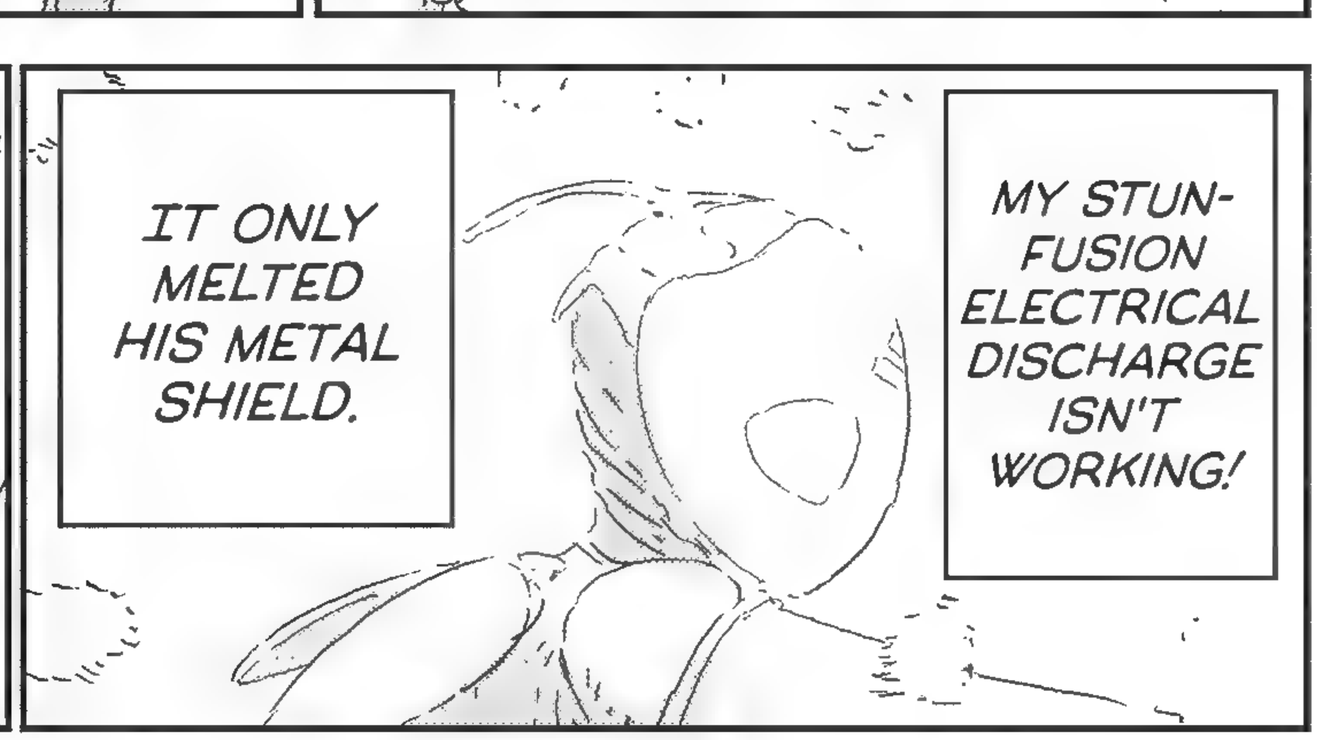

I'M NOT LETTING YOU NEAR THE VILLAGE!!
BZZAT
PCHINK

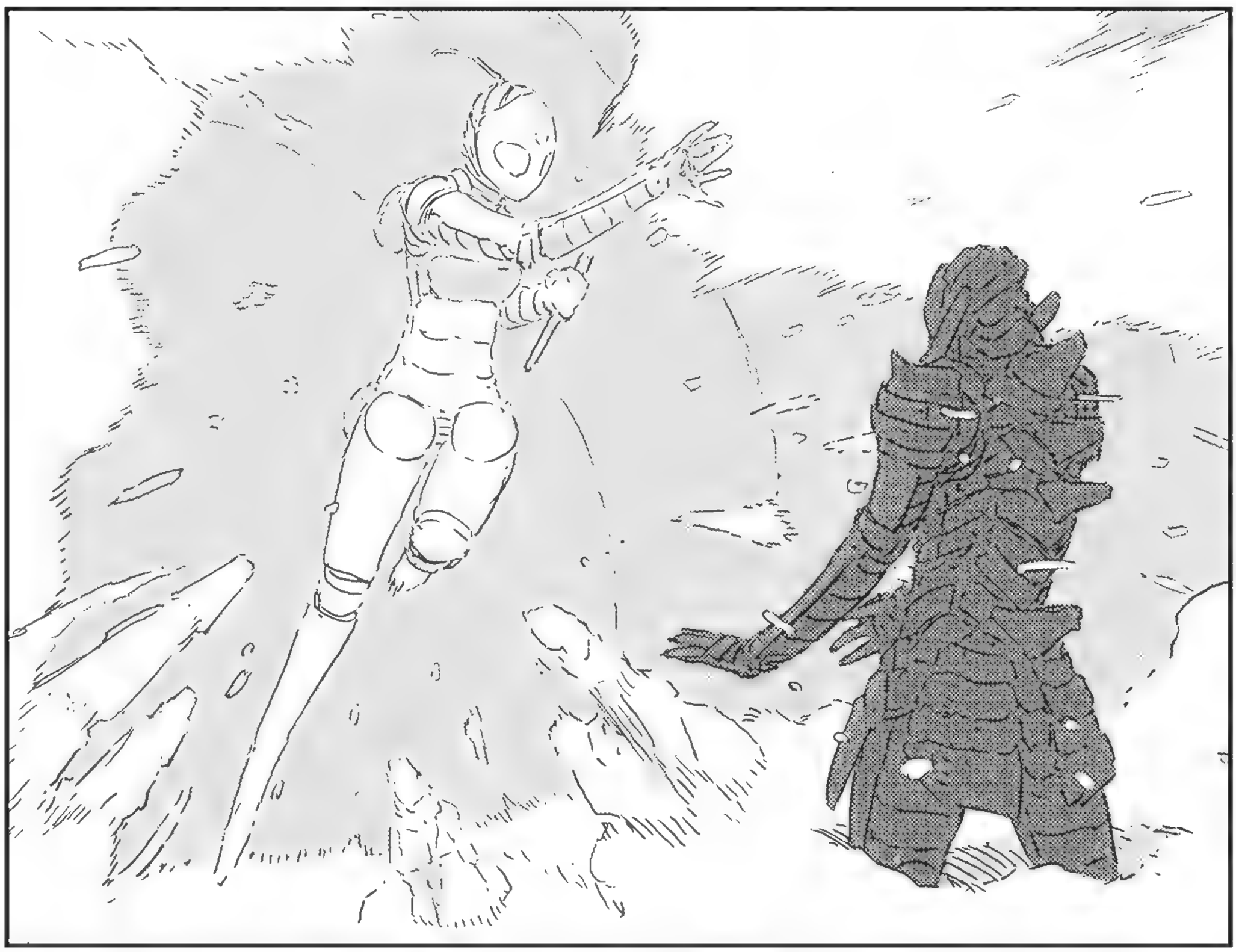

GWAAM

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!
THEY TURNED INTO REGULAR FRAMES AND ARE FIGHTING SOMETHING.
WHAT'S THAT?!
ZM
ZZM
WE SHOULD GET BACK BEHIND THE GATE, QUICKLY!

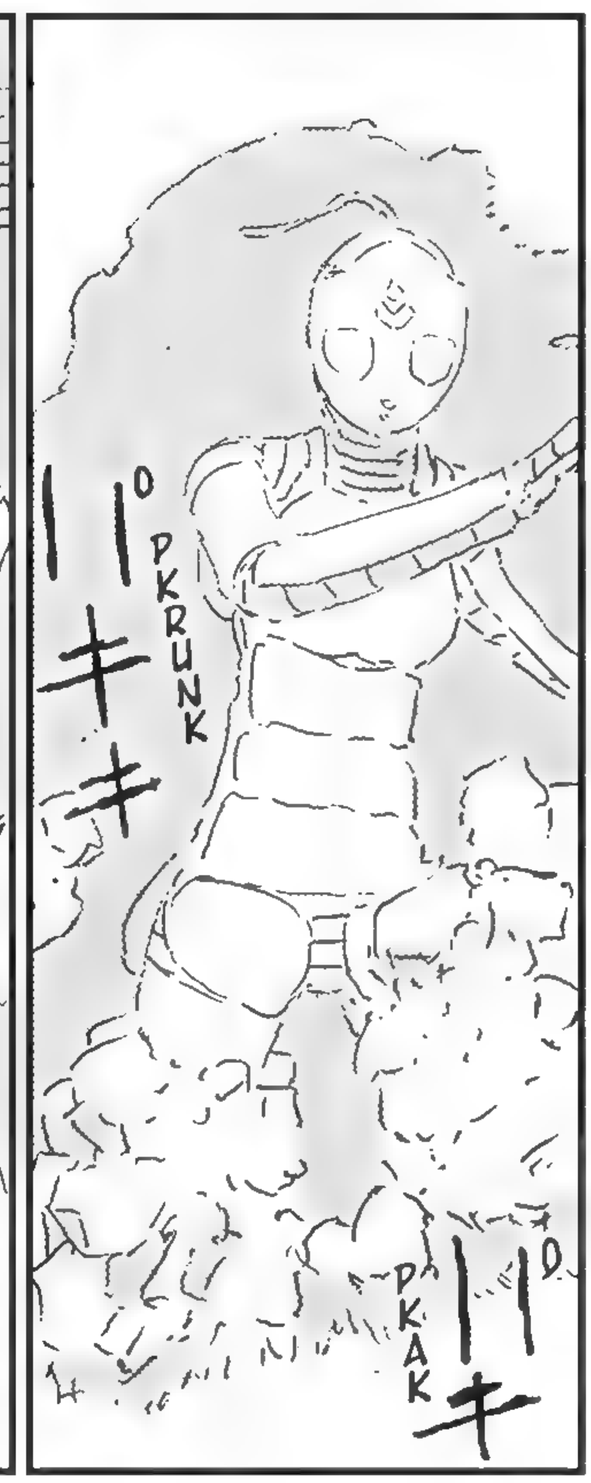

DADOOM
KREAK
KREAK

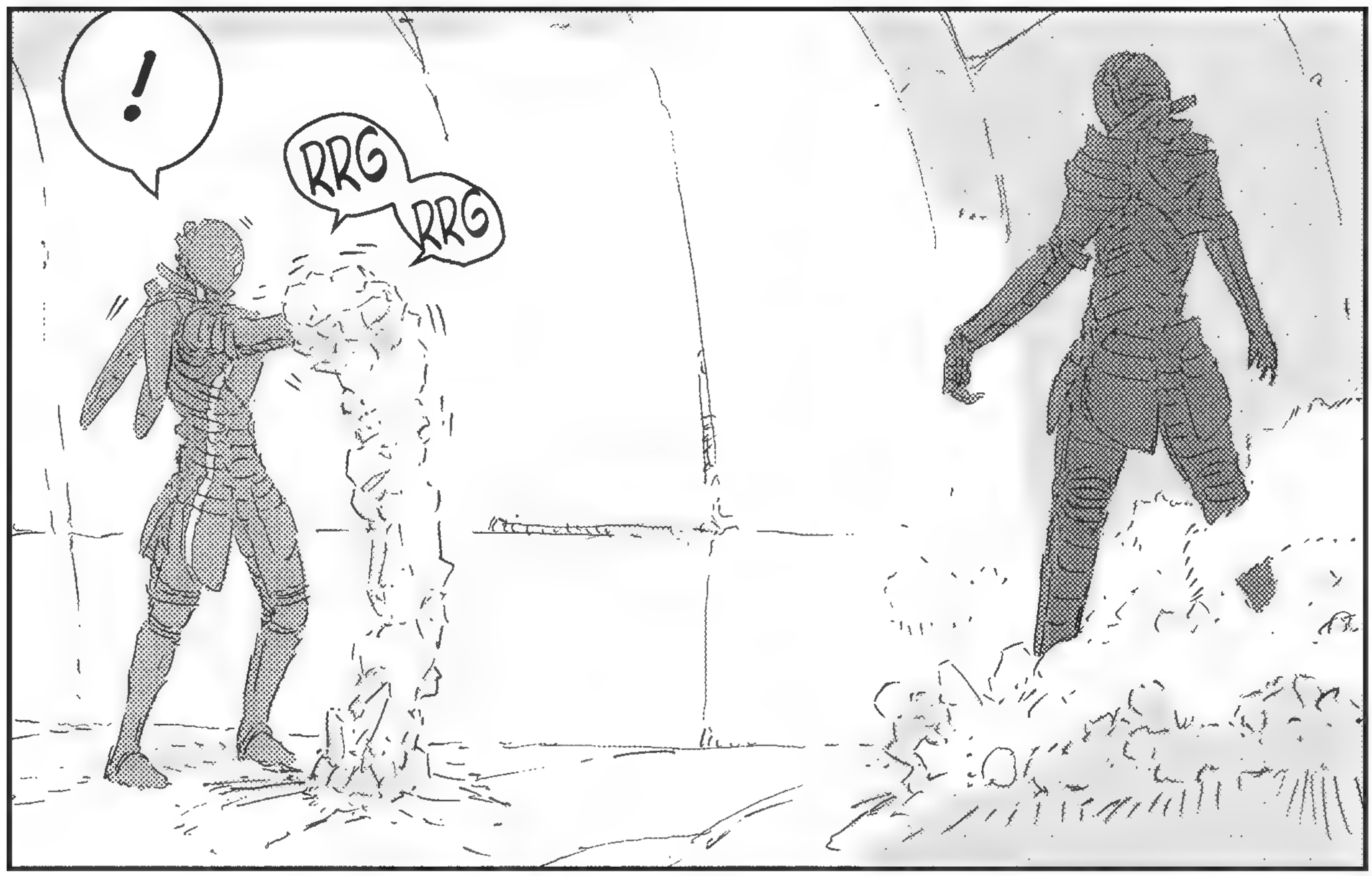


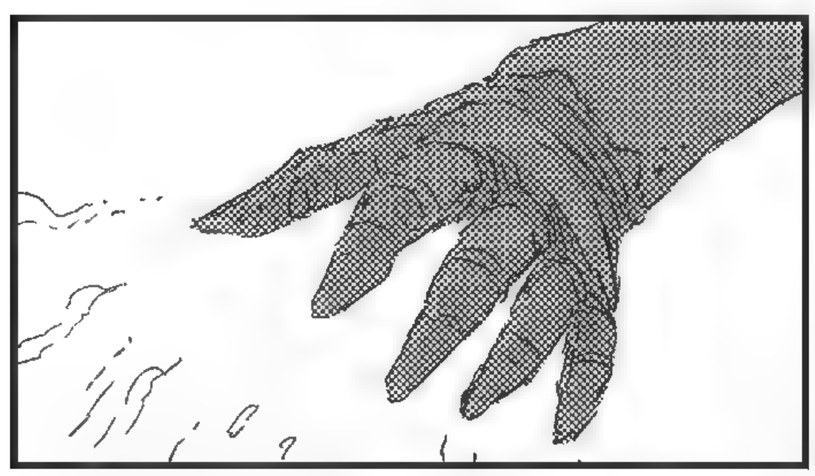

IT ONLY MELTED HIS METAL SHIELD.
MY STUN-FUSION ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE ISN'T WORKING!



!


PKRUNK
PKAK


!
RRG
RRG



IT'S INCREDIBLY HARD!!

SHIT!!

!!
PIK KRIK KRIK

VWOOOH

ZHWBAAMM

KWRRR

WMF

AND THIS IS A NEW MOVE, TOO!

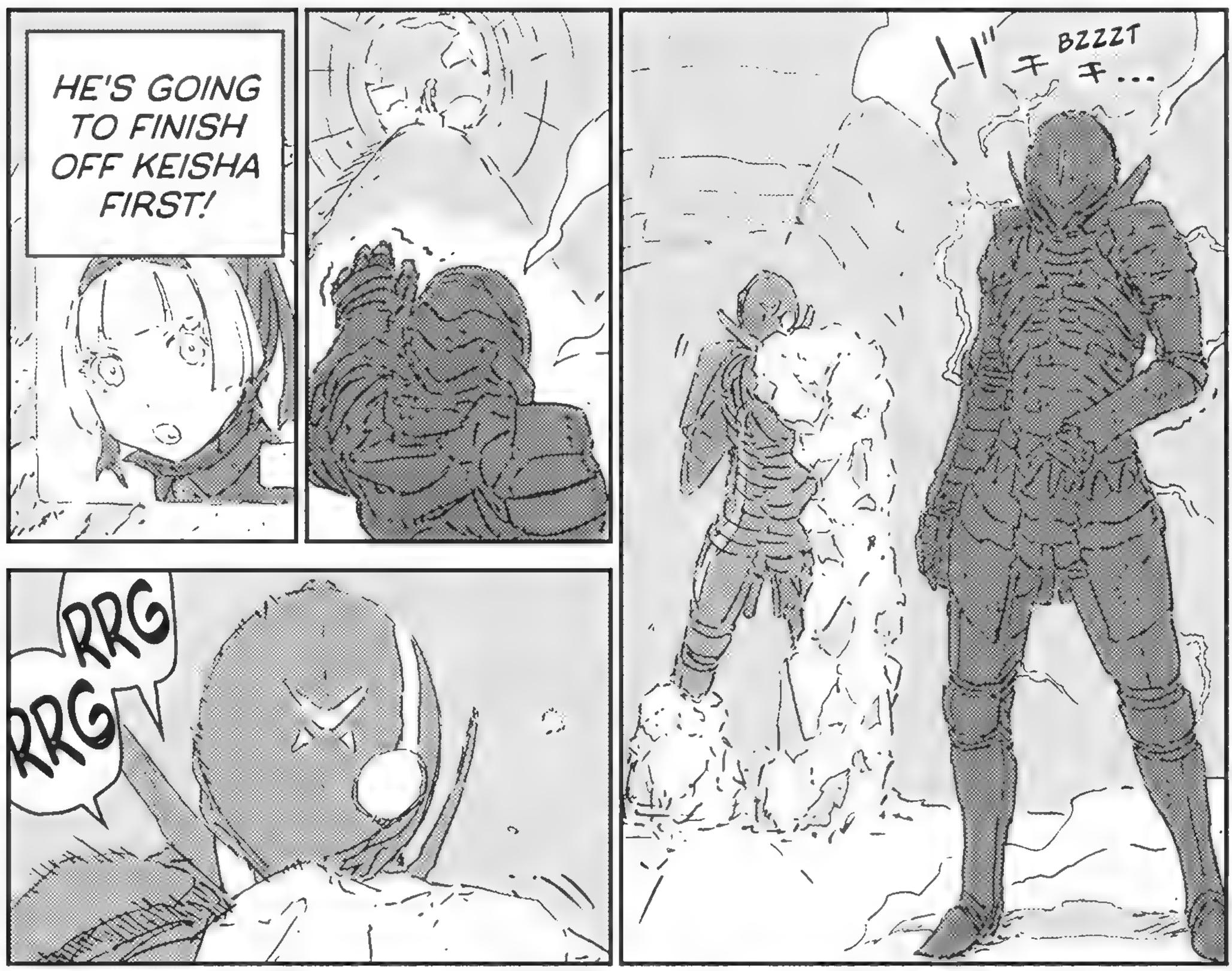
KEISHA! YOU LEARNED TO DISCHARGE FROM MORE THAN YOUR PALMS?!

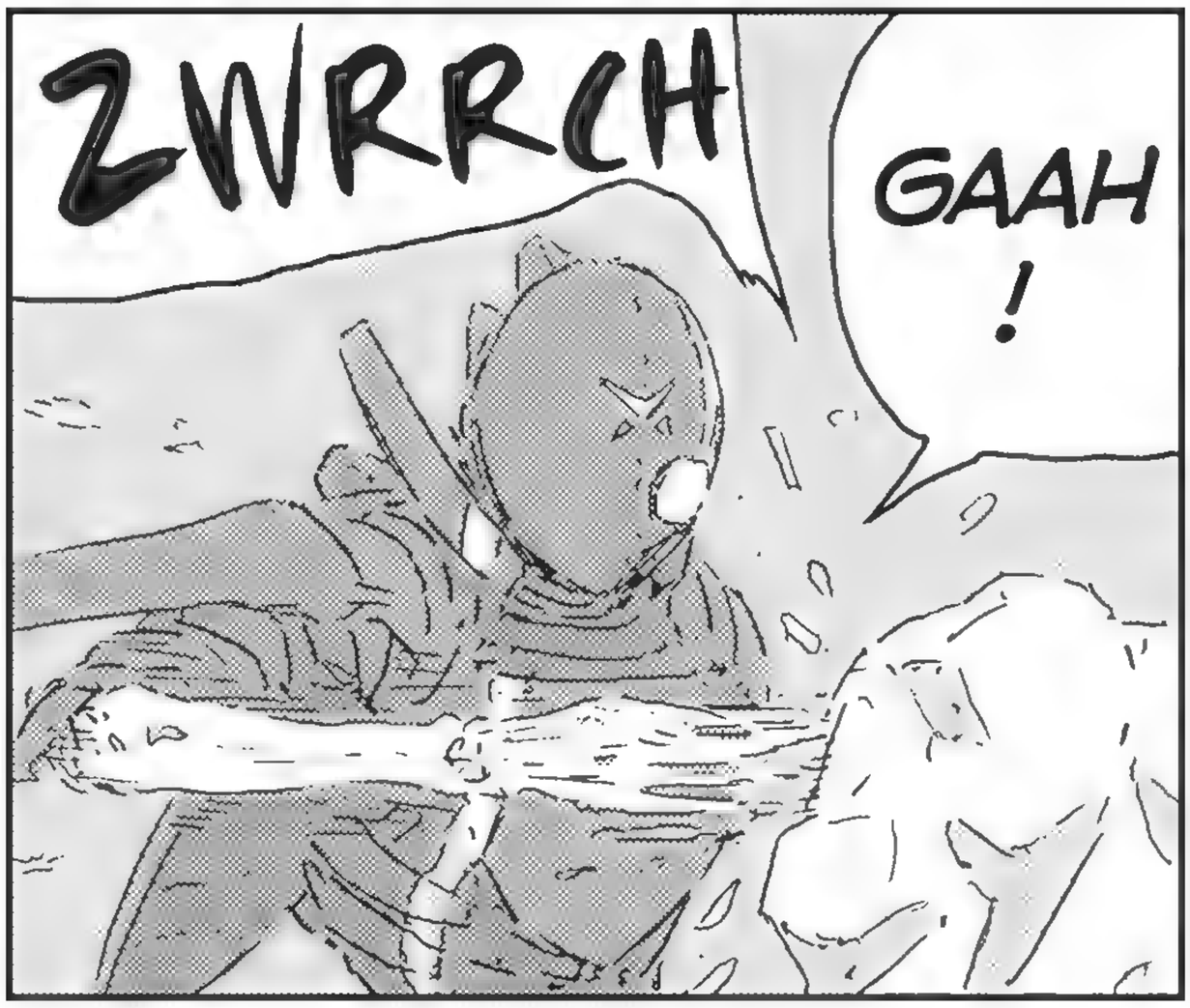
AFTER GETTING LOCKED IN YIYU'S ICE, I'VE BEEN PRACTI-CING.

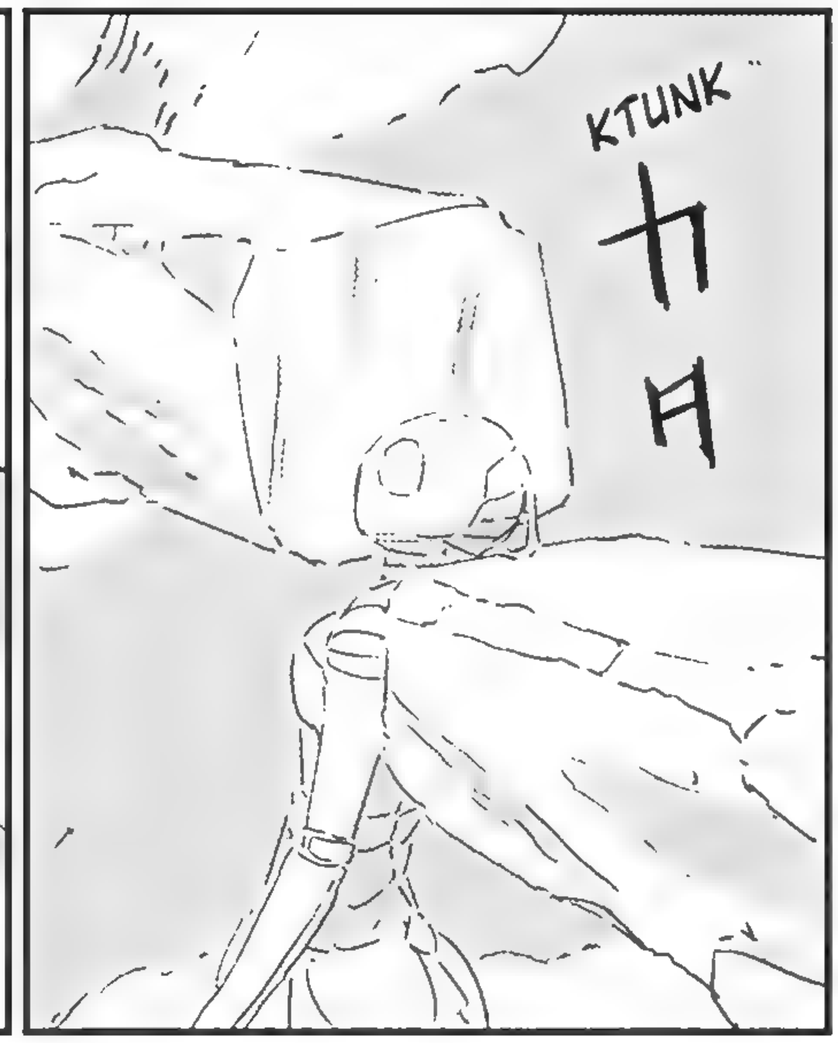
CHITT

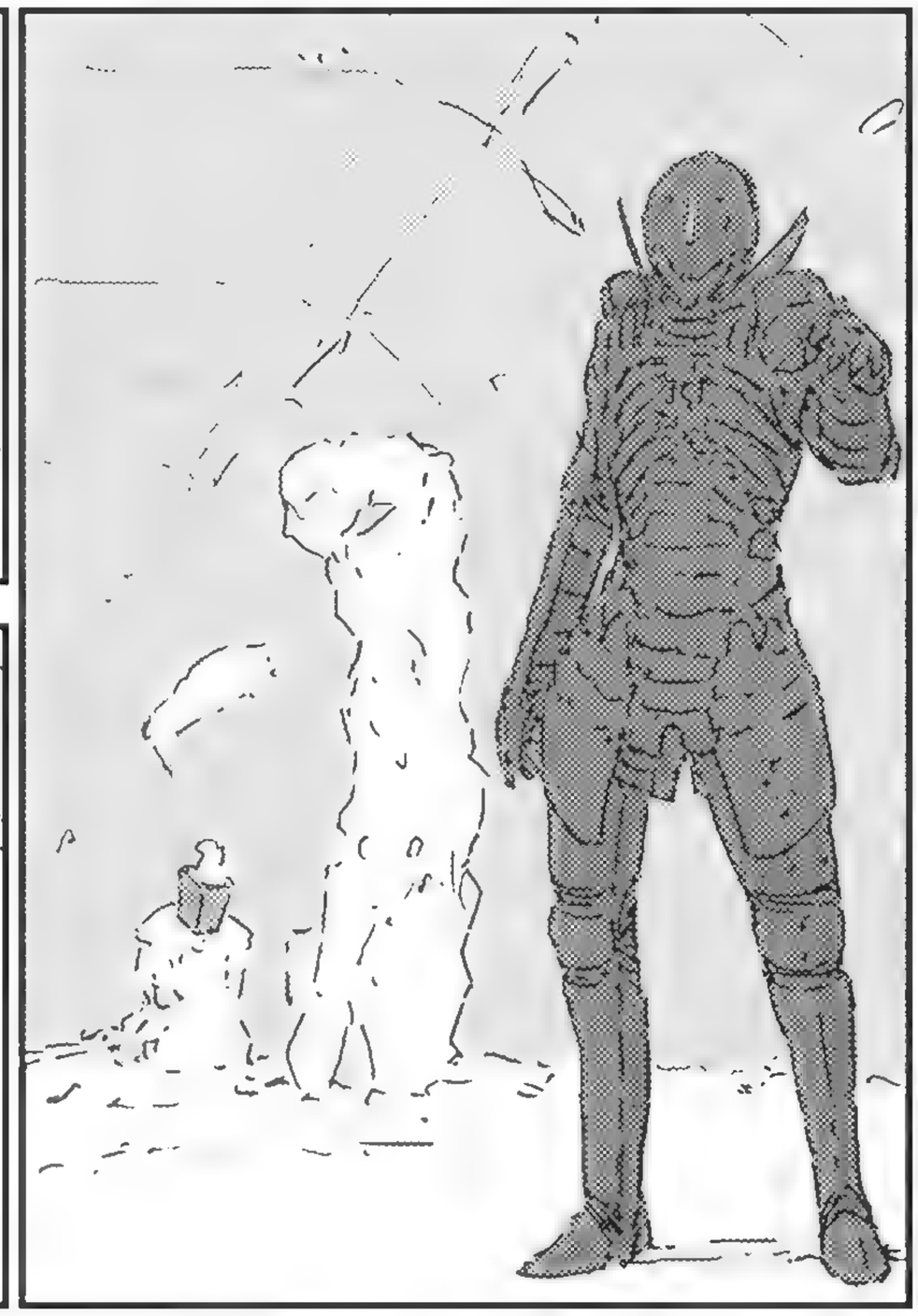
PKINK

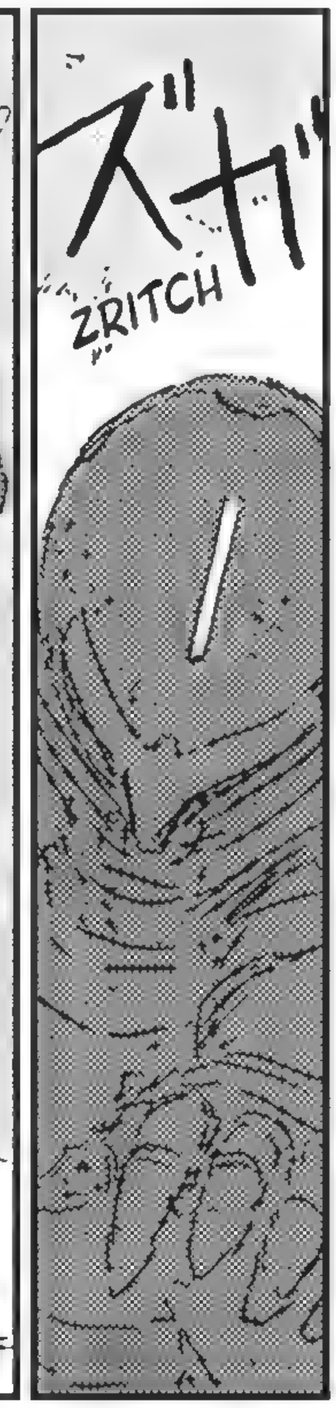
DID IT WORK THIS TIME?
HOW'S THAT?
HSSSSS
BZZATCH
I'VE RUN OUT OF POWER AGAIN...
KEISHA
I'M SORRY, ETHEROW ...
SLUMP
EBTG
DISABLED
RECOVERING
KEISHA'S DOWN!

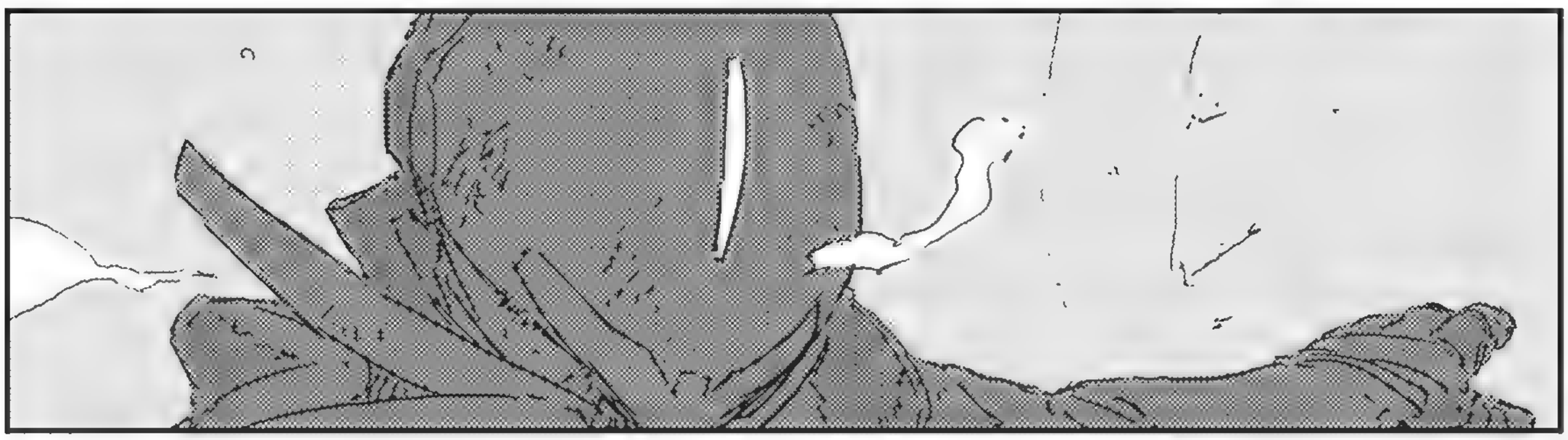

HE'S GOING TO FINISH OFF KEISHA FIRST!
RRG RRG
BZZZT
ヒ° KRIK キ KRIK
ヒ° PKK キ KRRK キ

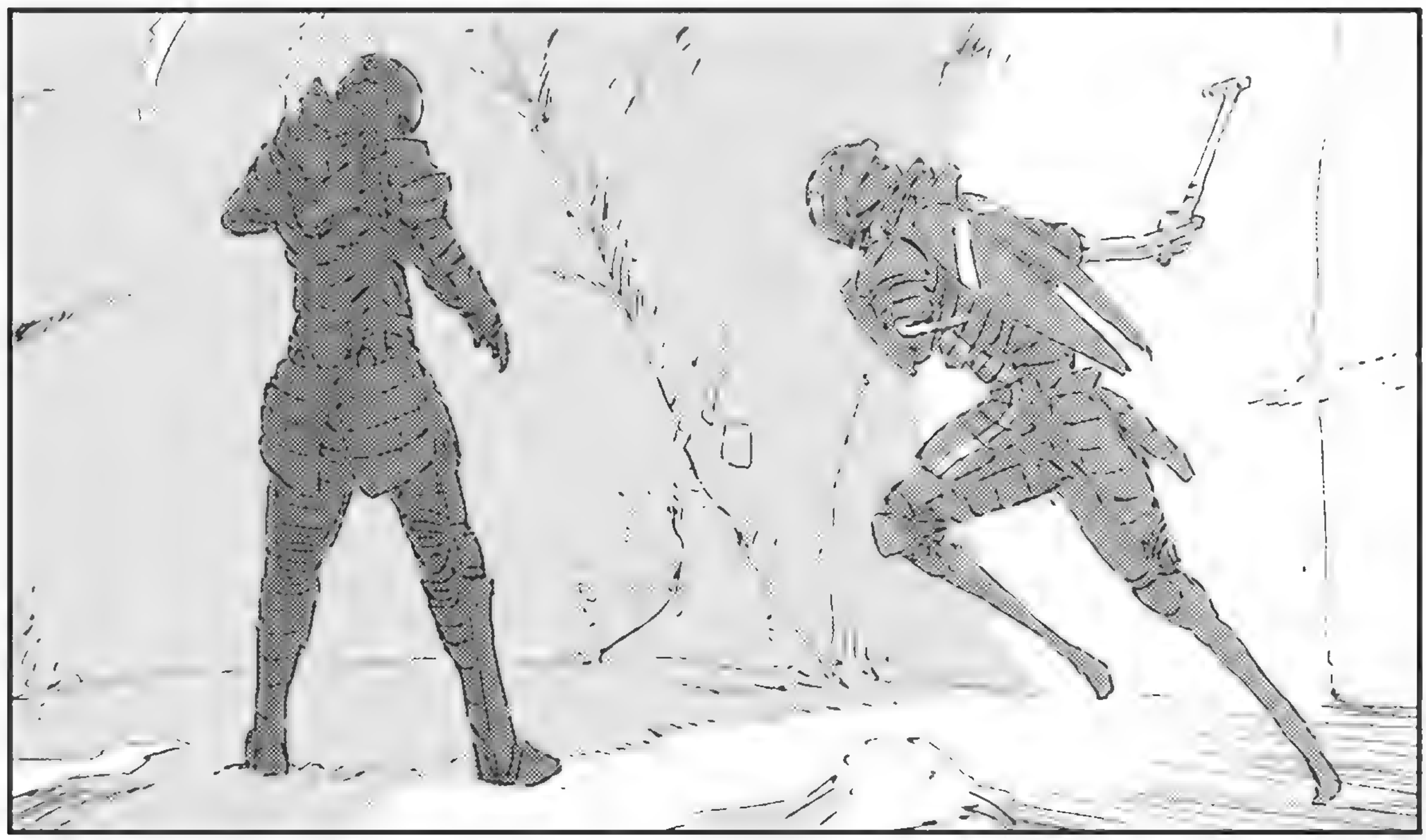

ZWRRCH
GAAH
!

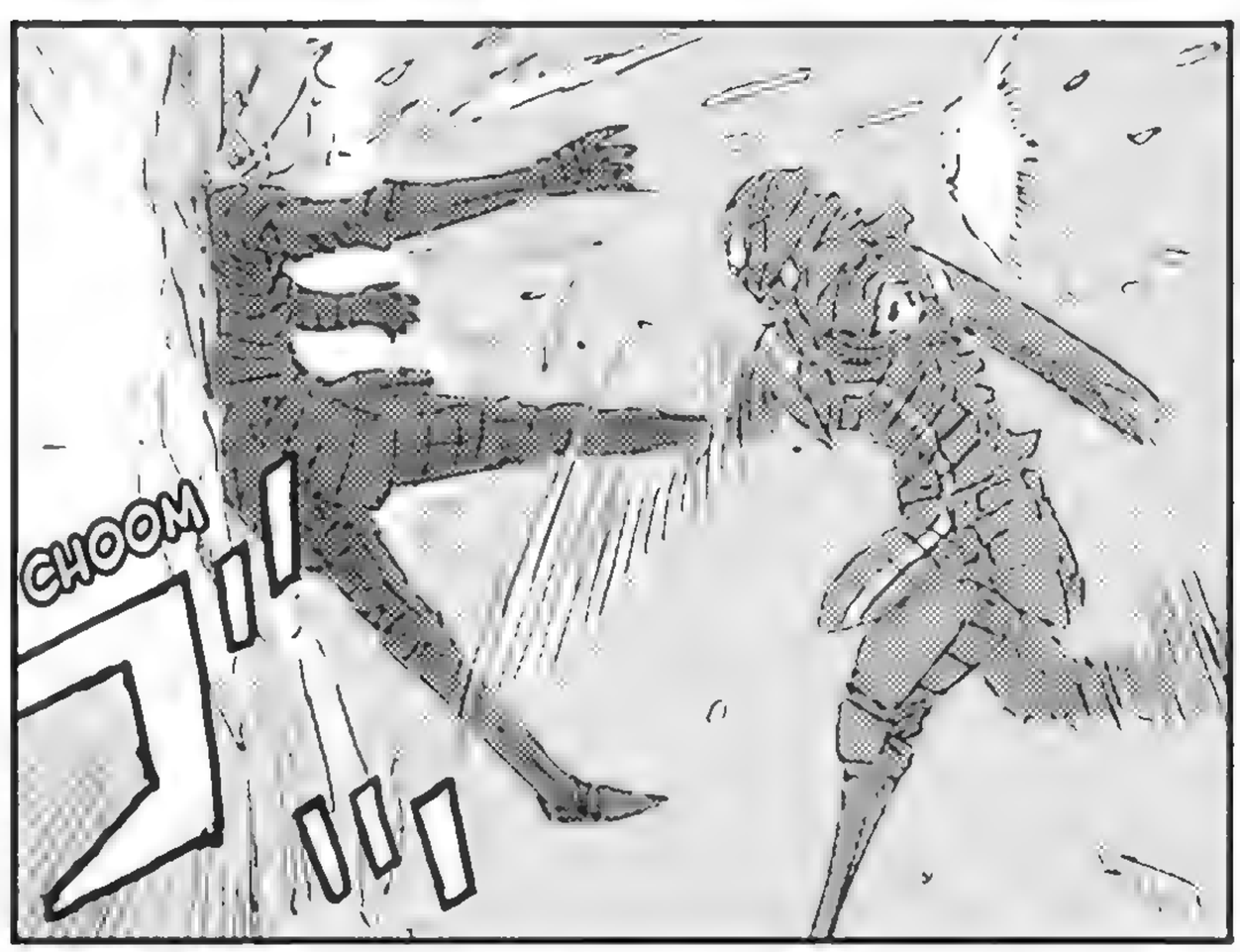

KTUNK




ZRITCH

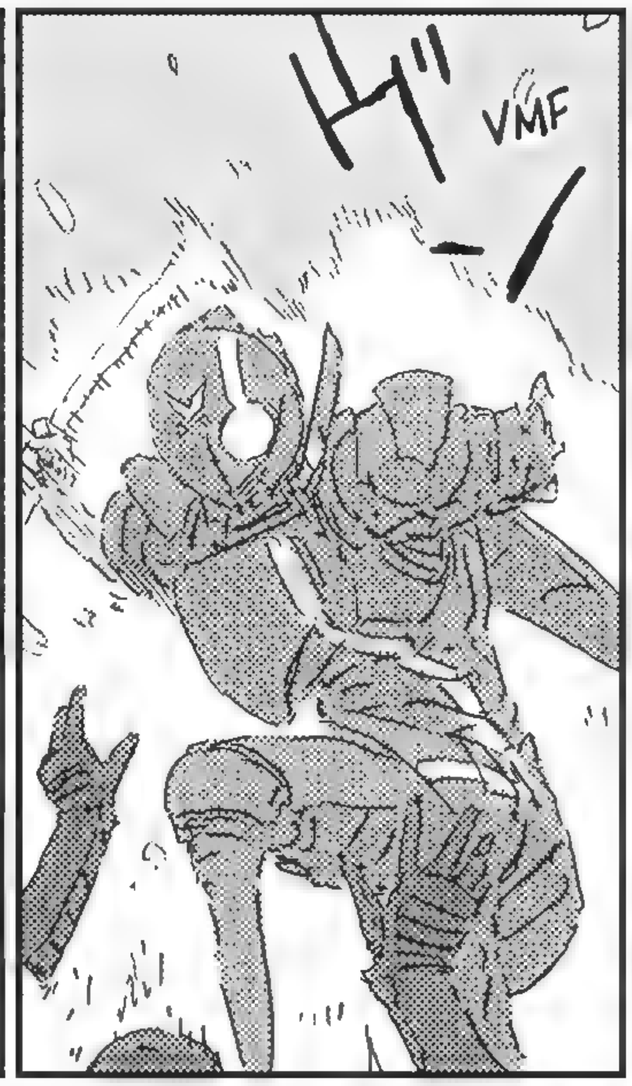


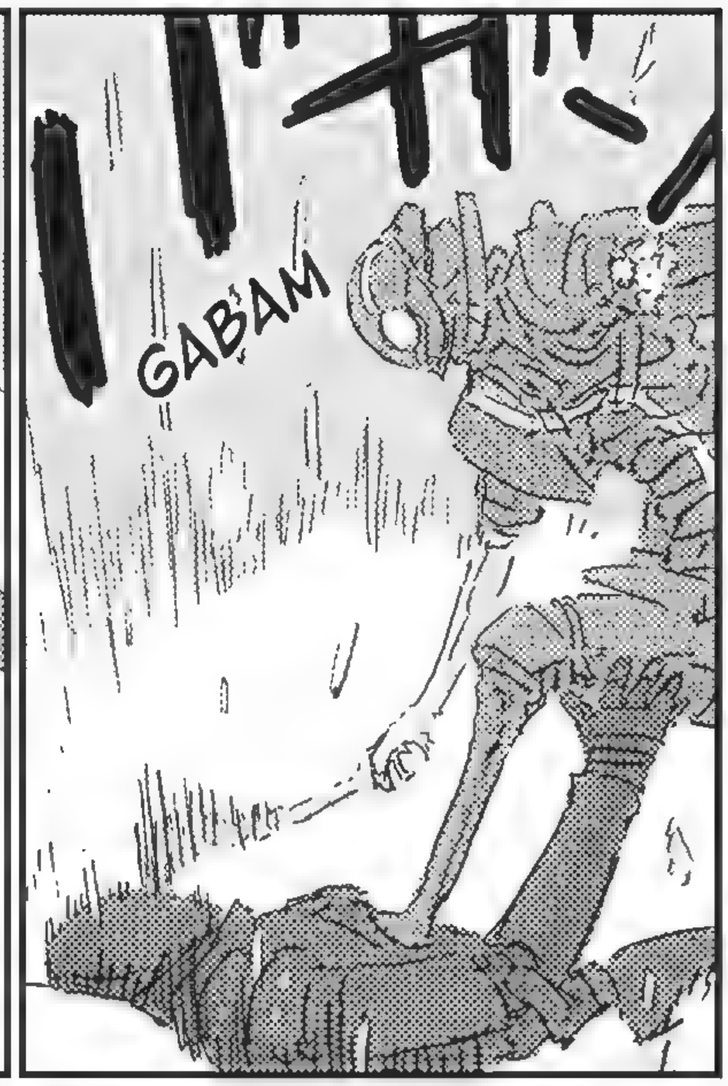


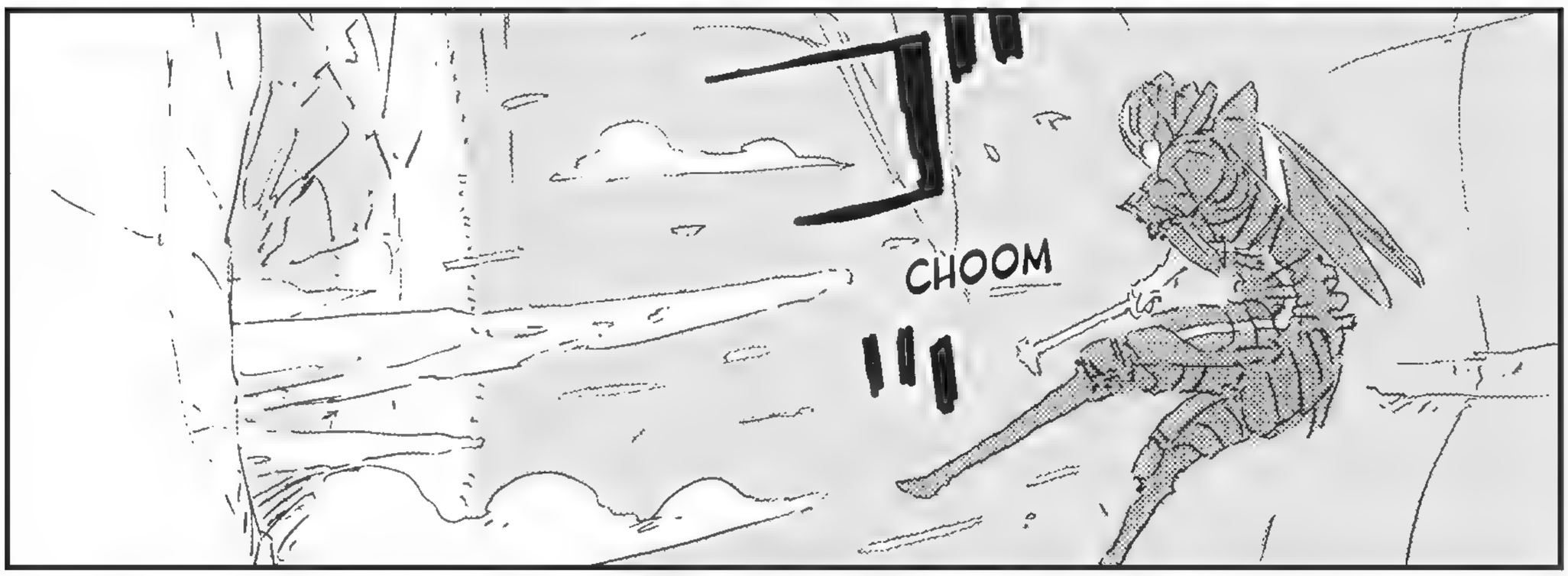

CHOOM

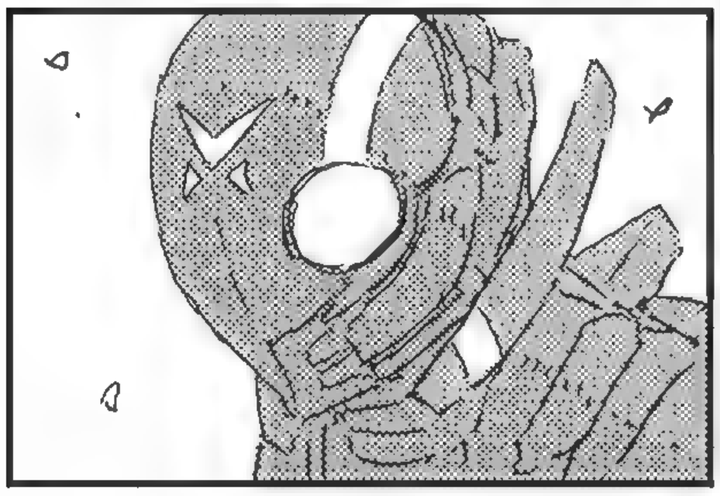
KRANG

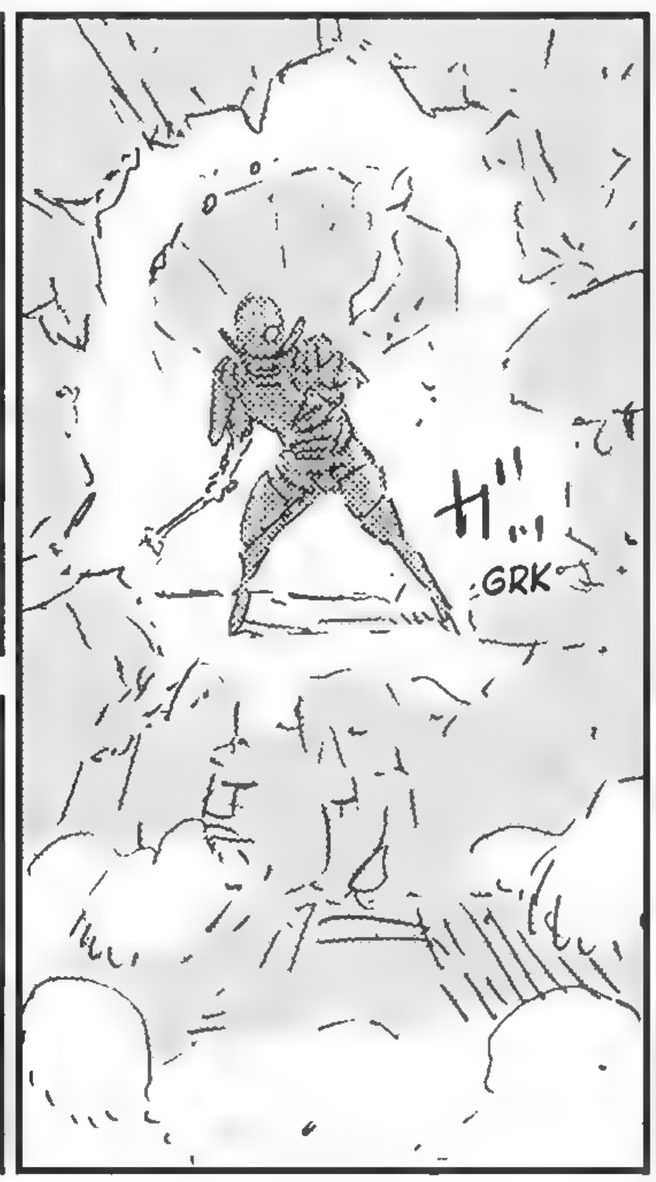
ドカッ
GWHUMP


VMF


GABAM


CHOOM

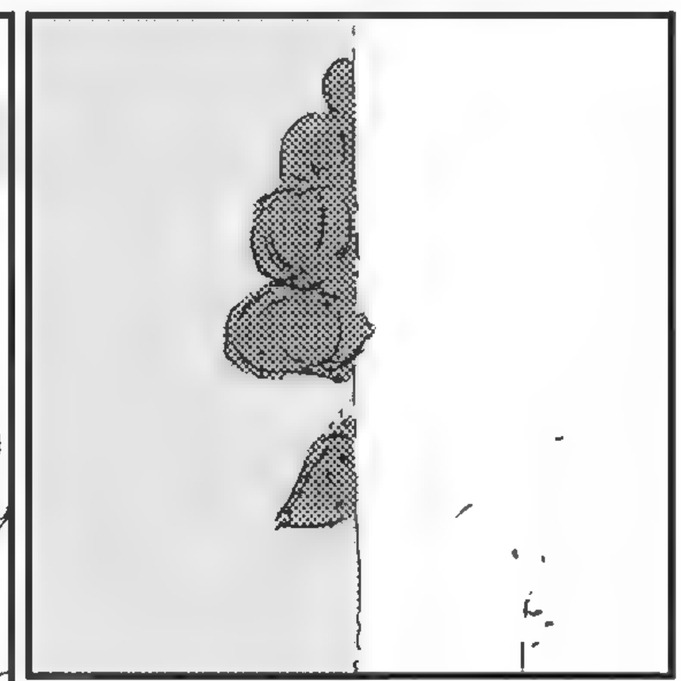


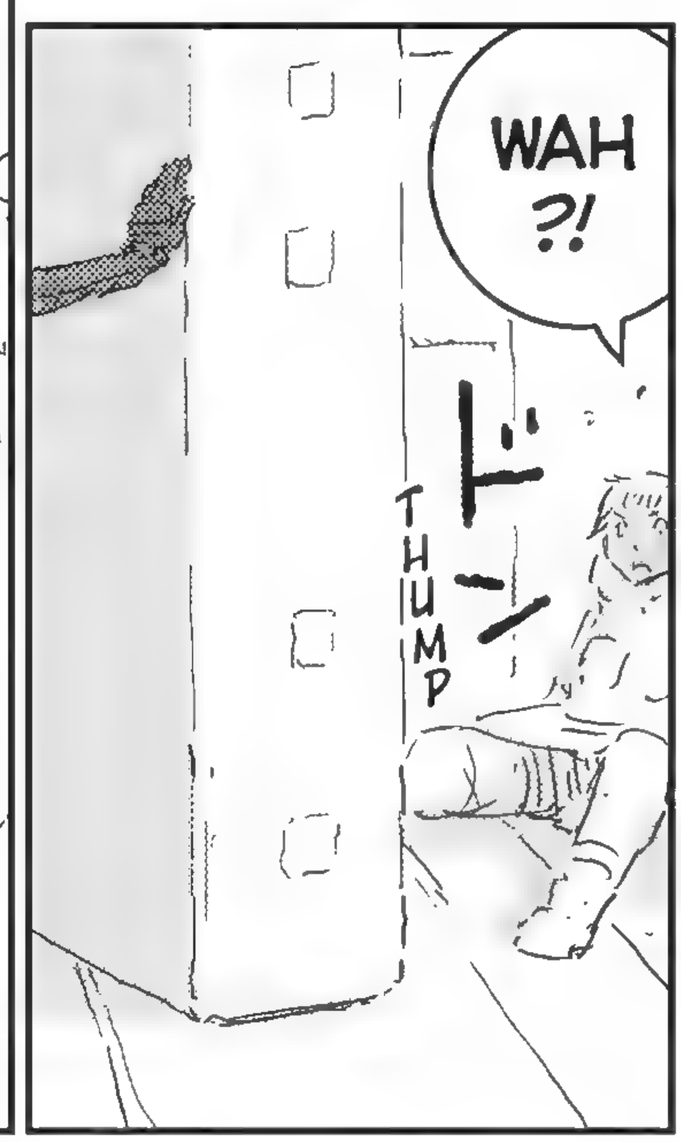

GRK

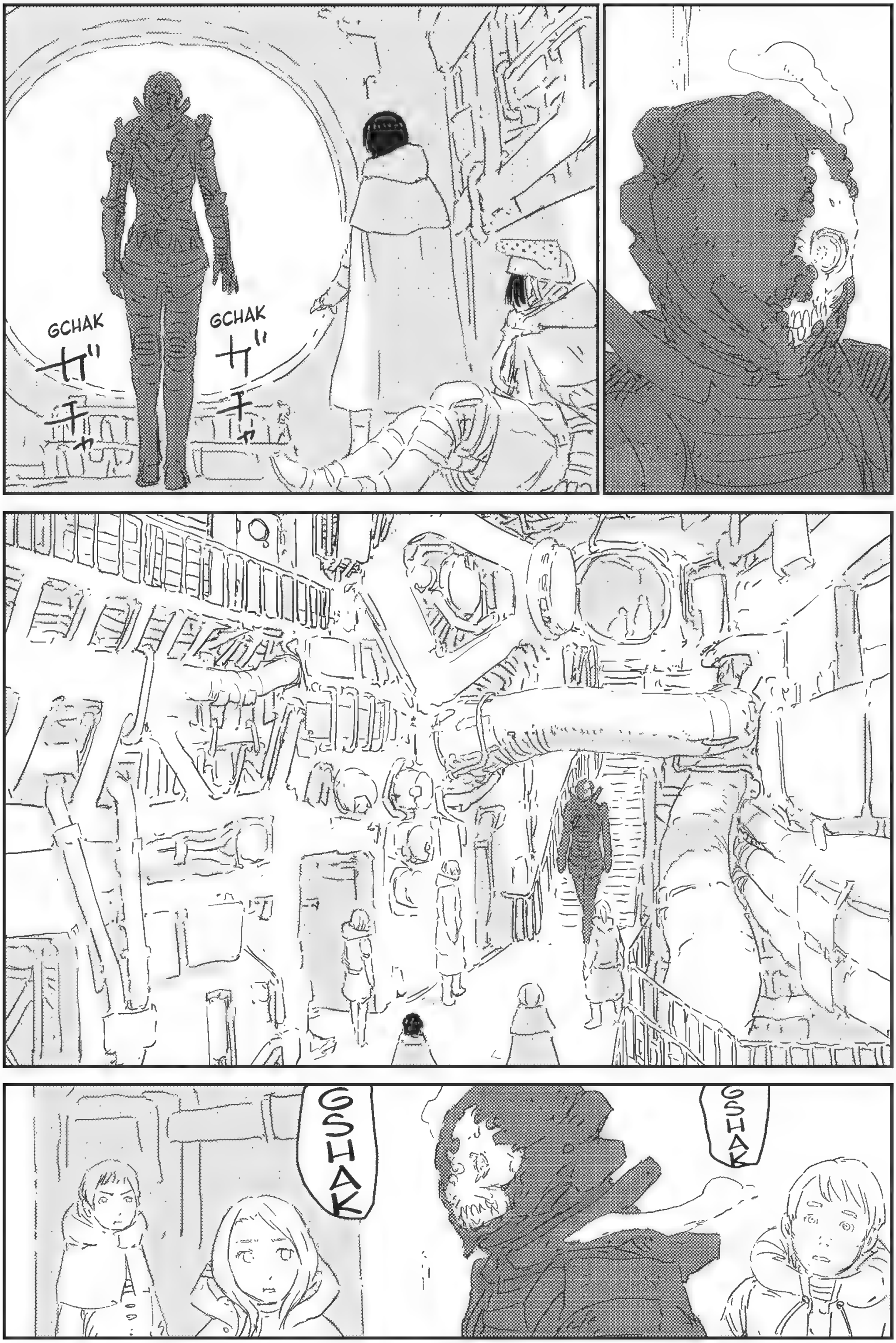
GABAM

JUST CLOSE THE GATE!
KRROOM

WHAT IS IT?! WHY ARE YOU SO FLUSTERED ?!
KOOM




WAH ?!
THUMP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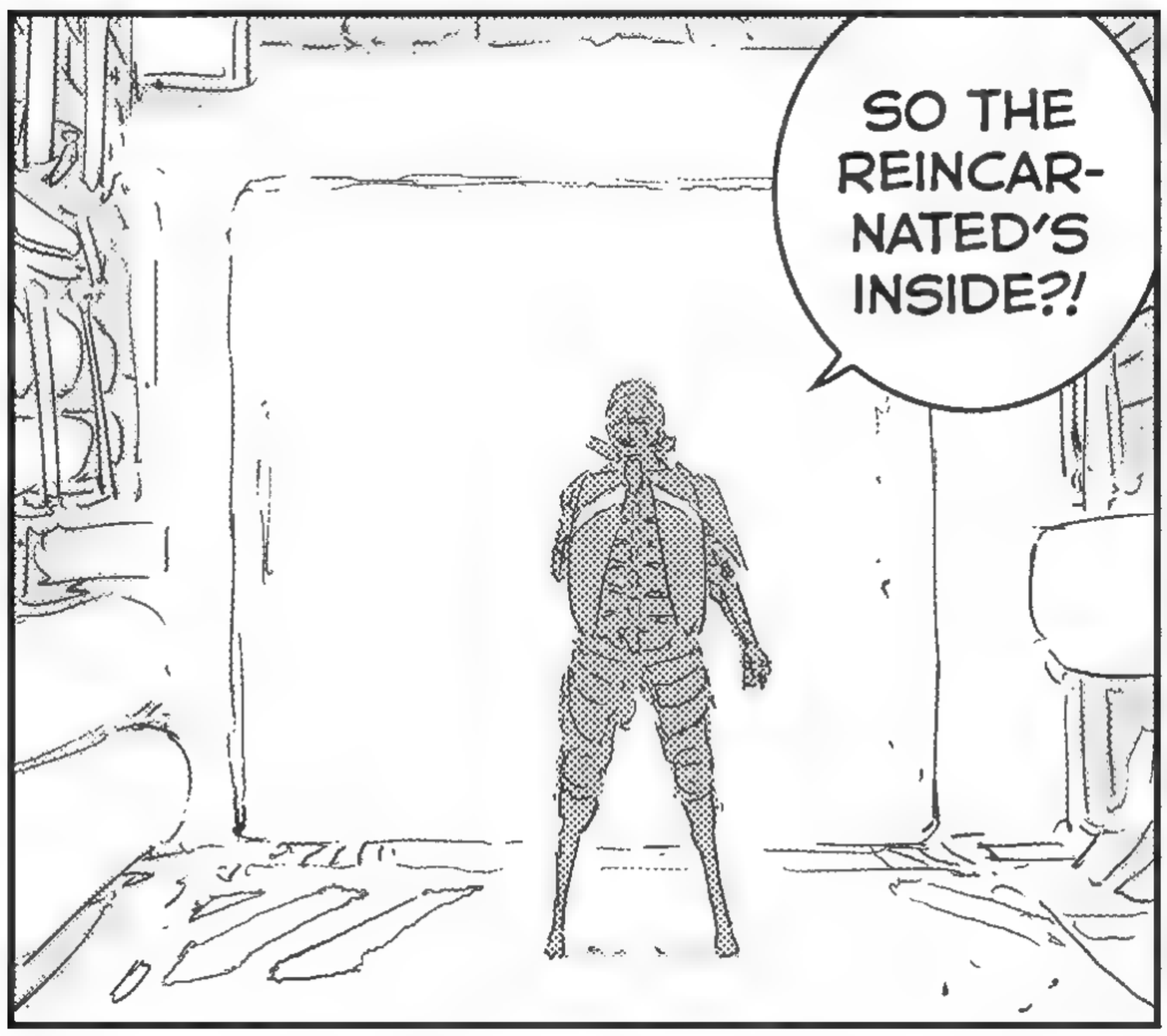
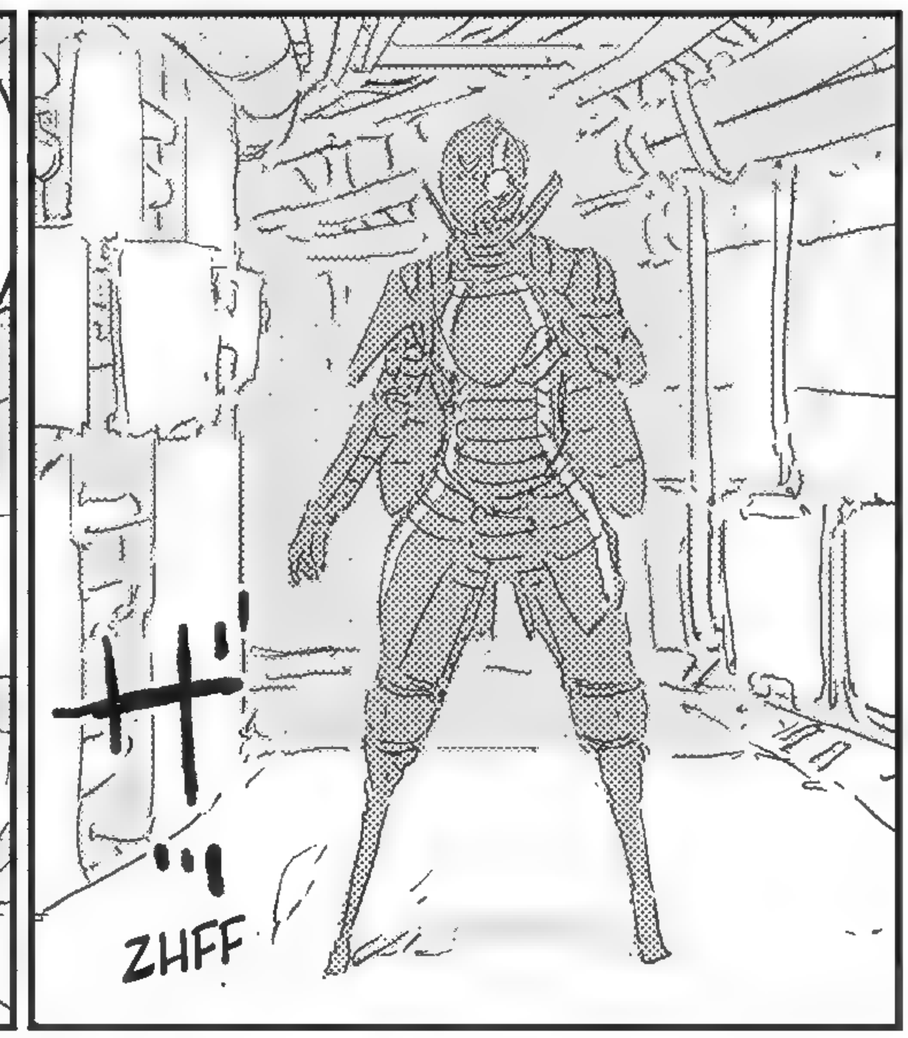
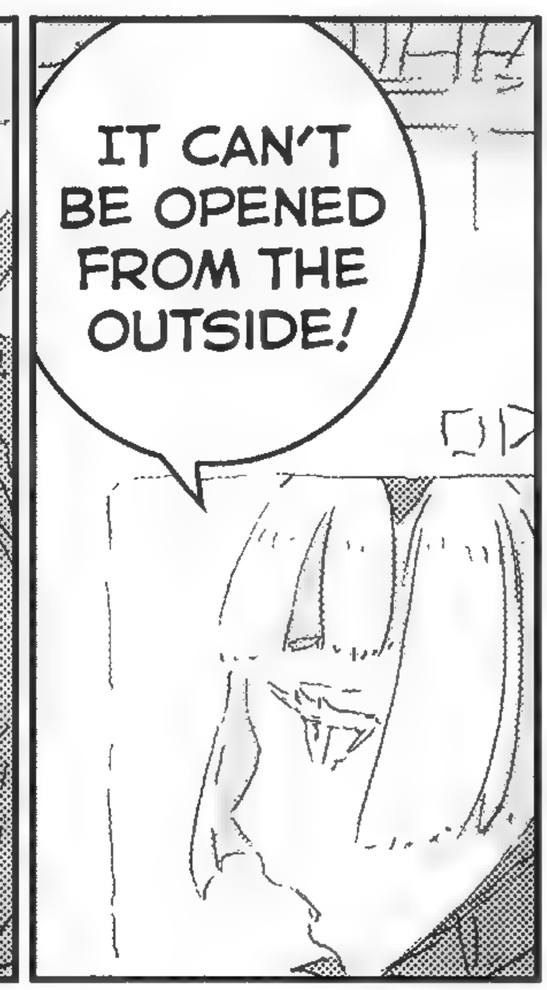
GSHAK

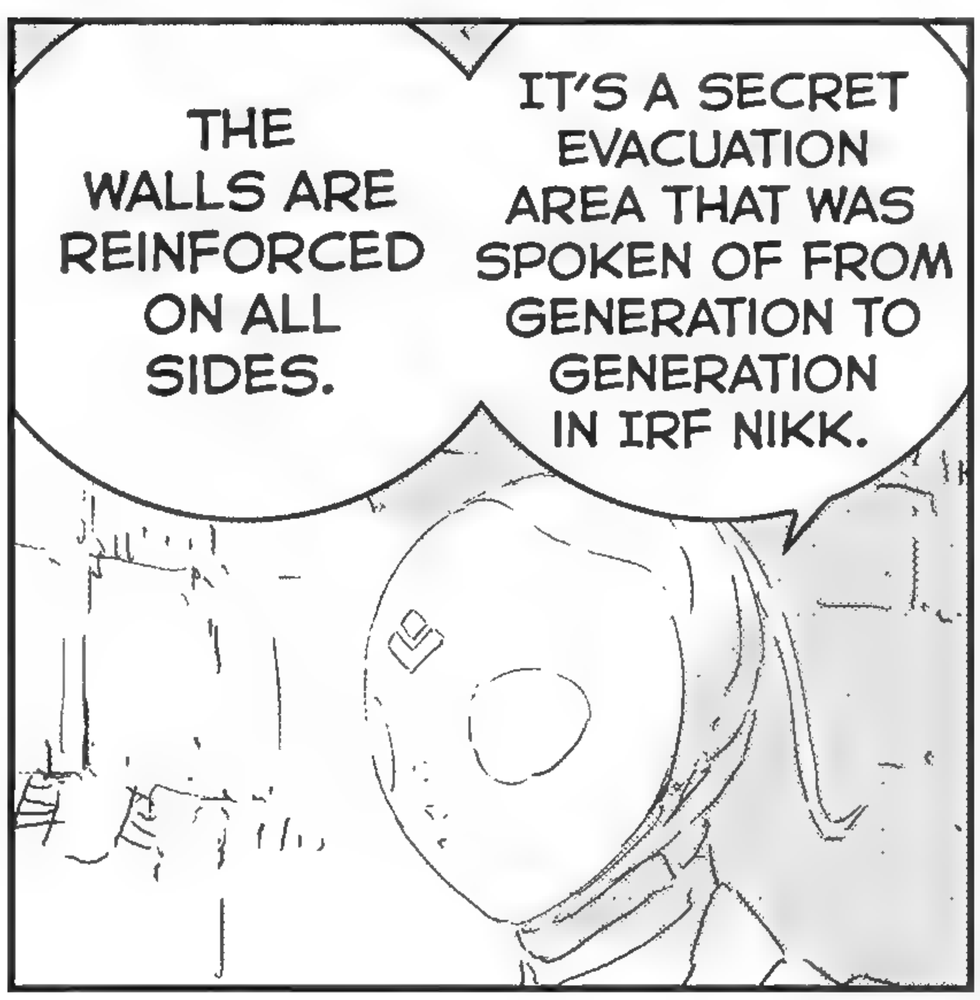

SO THE REINCAR-NATED'S INSIDE?!


ZHFF

ORDINARY ROUNDS WON'T BLAST THROUGH THAT DOOR.
I'M LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAY TO GET IN...

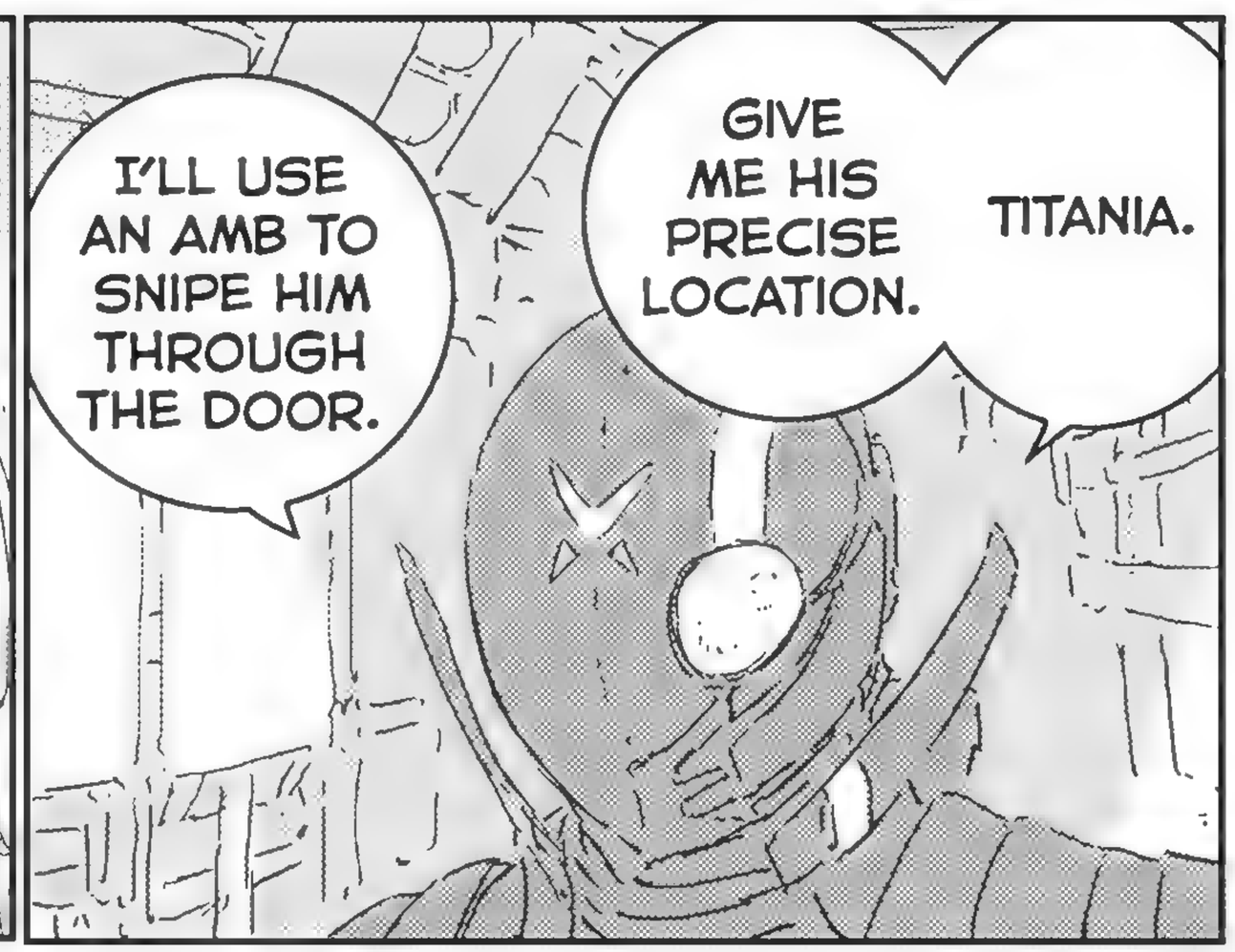
MY EBTG HAS RECOVERED. I'LL BLOW IT OPEN!

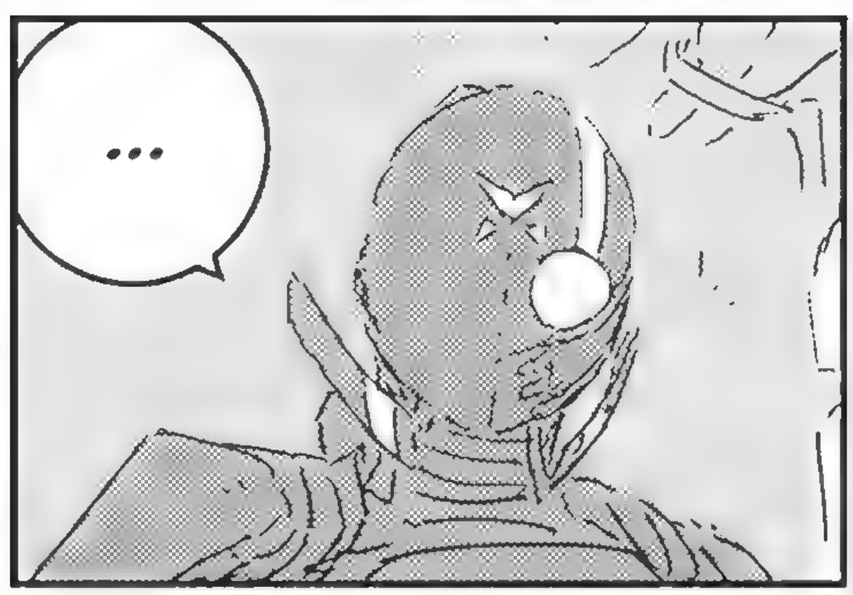

IT CAN'T BE OPENED FROM THE OUTSIDE!


THE WALLS ARE REINFORCED ON ALL SIDES.
IT'S A SECRET EVACUATION AREA THAT WAS SPOKEN OF FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION IN IRF NIKK.

THE ONLY PLACE PEOPLE CAN GET THROUGH IS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.
KEISHA !

YOU CAN'T! YOU'LL HIT SOME OF THE VILLAGERS, TOO.


I'LL USE AN AMB TO SNIPE HIM THROUGH THE DOOR.
GIVE ME HIS PRECISE LOCATION.
TITANIA.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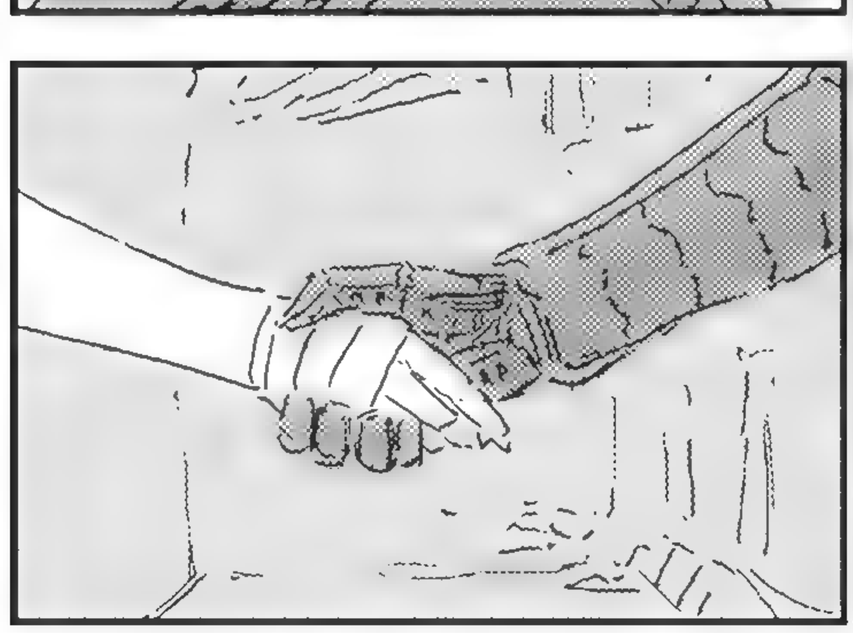
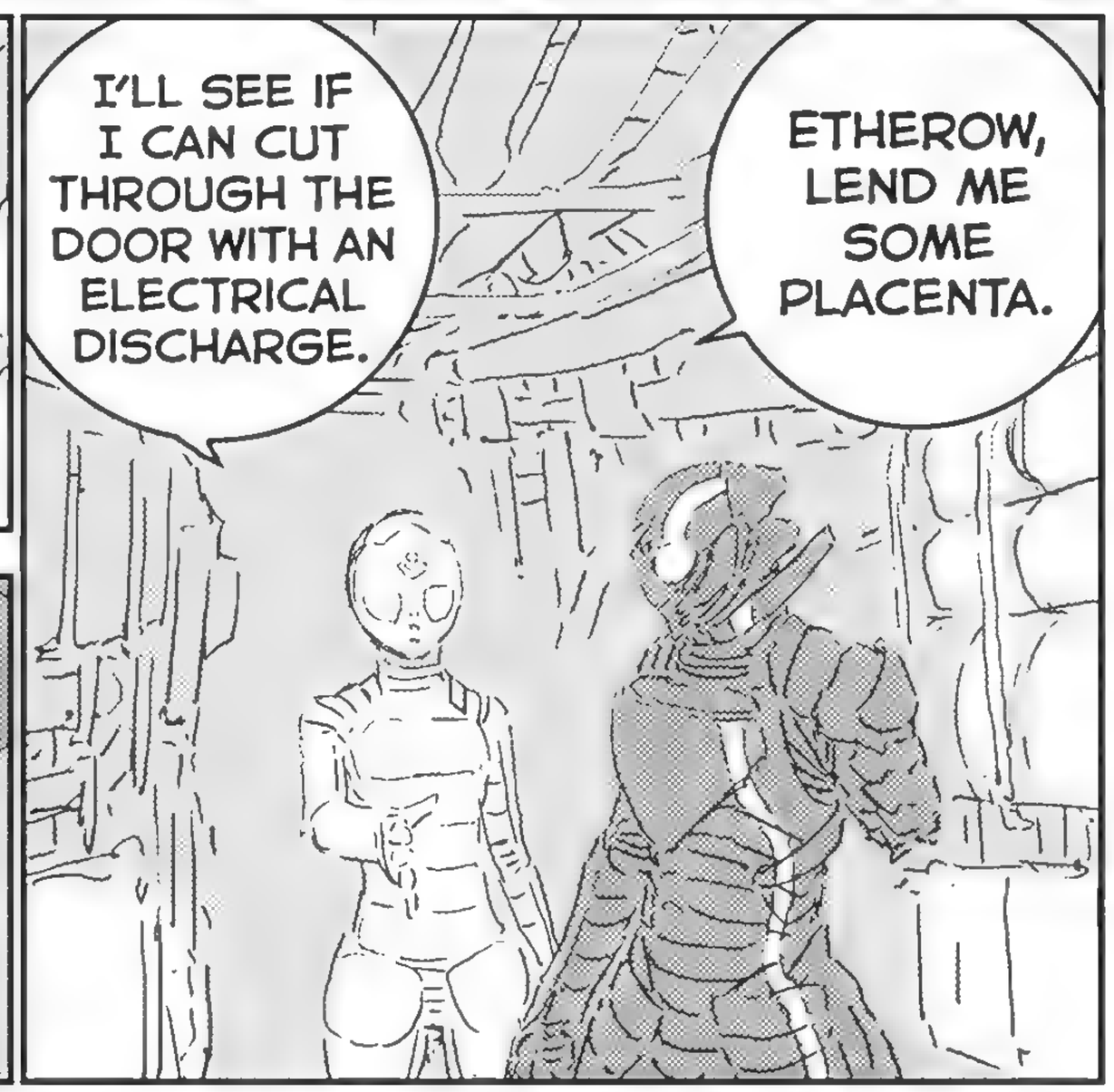
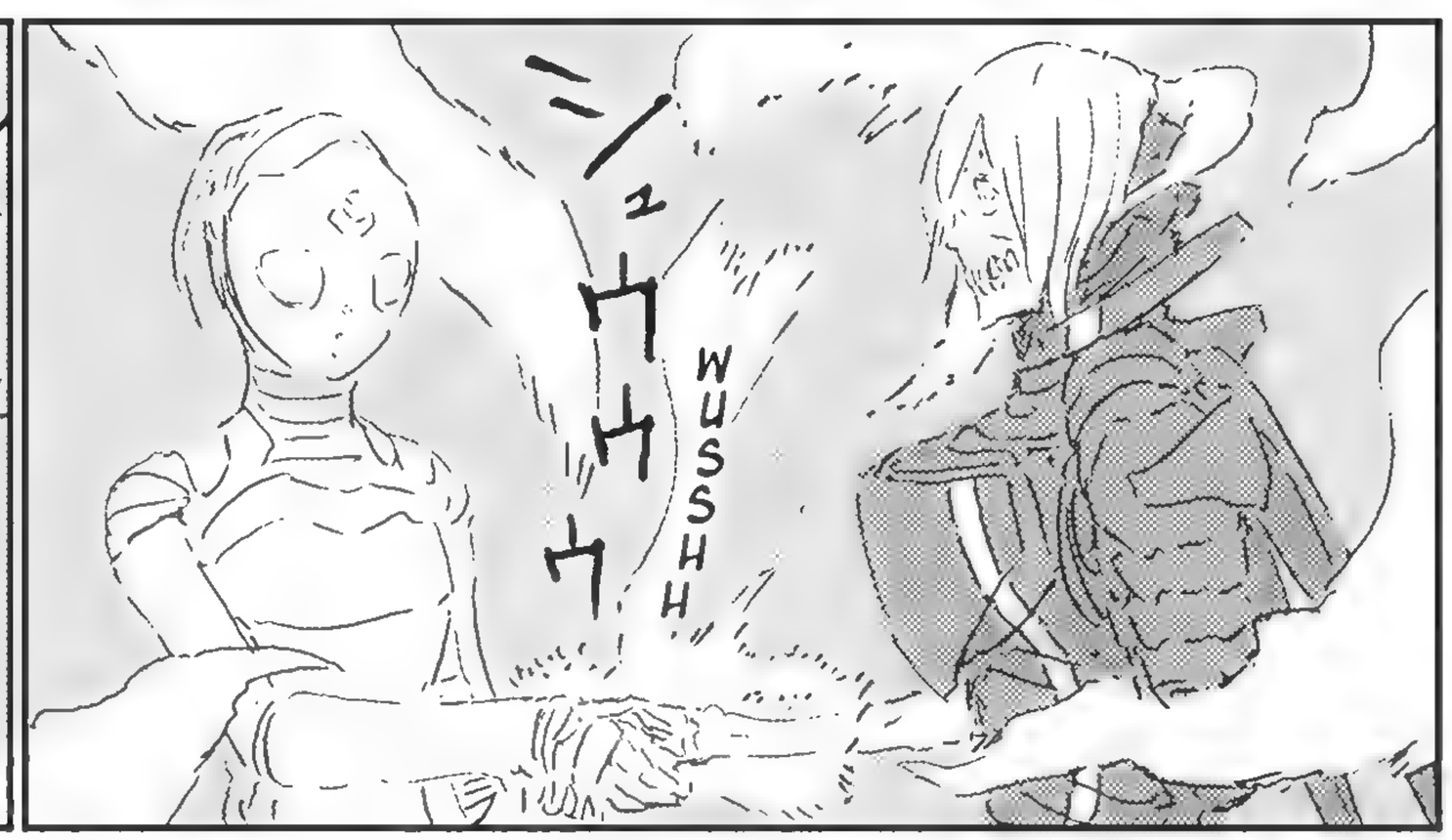
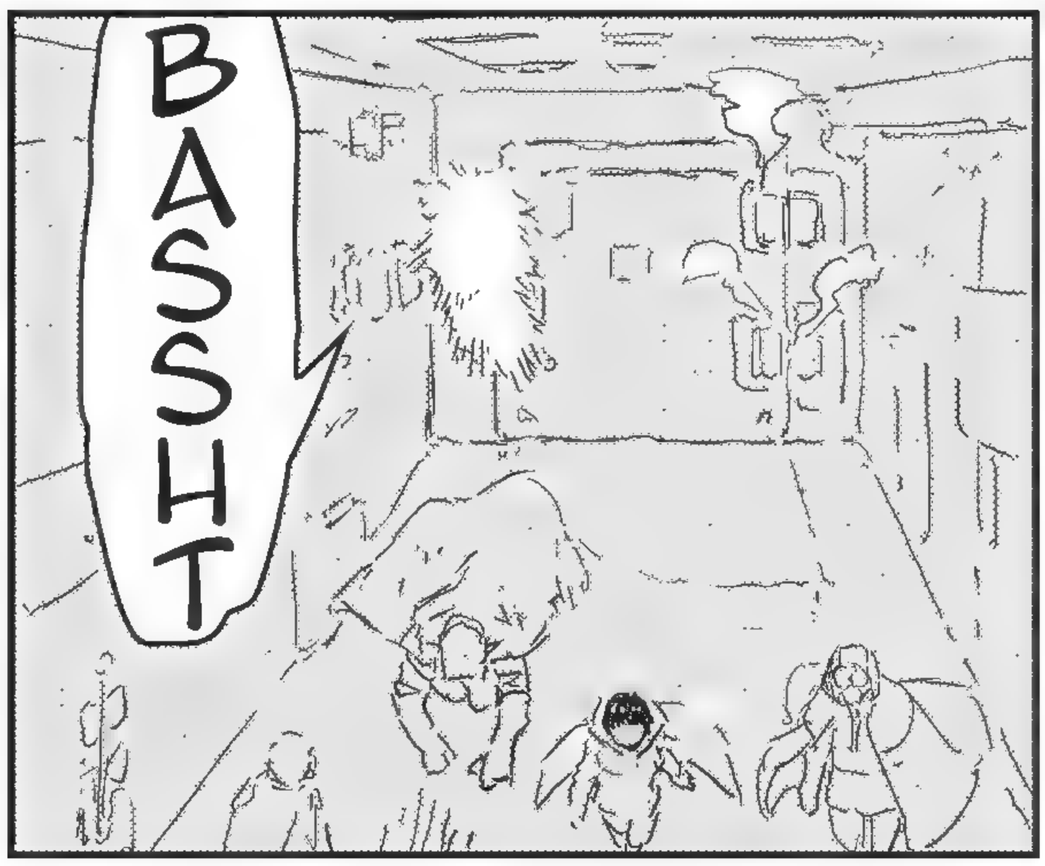
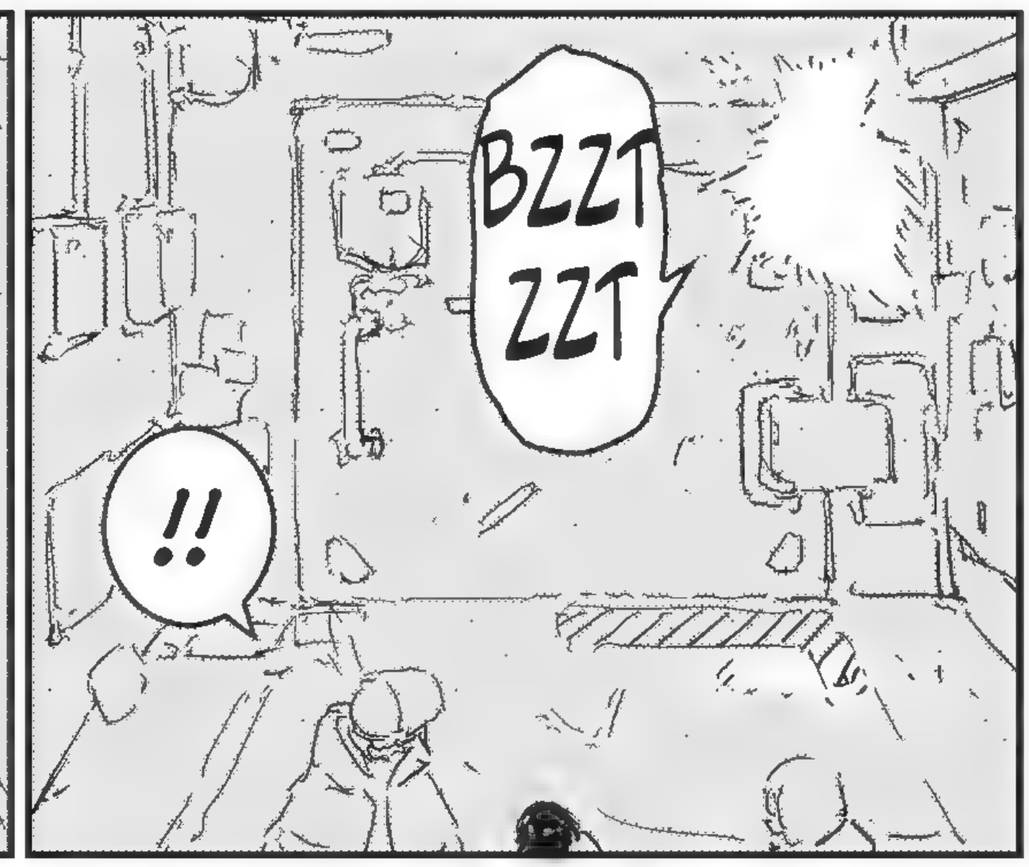



I'LL SEE IF I CAN CUT THROUGH THE DOOR WITH AN ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE.
ETHEROW, LEND ME SOME PLACENTA.

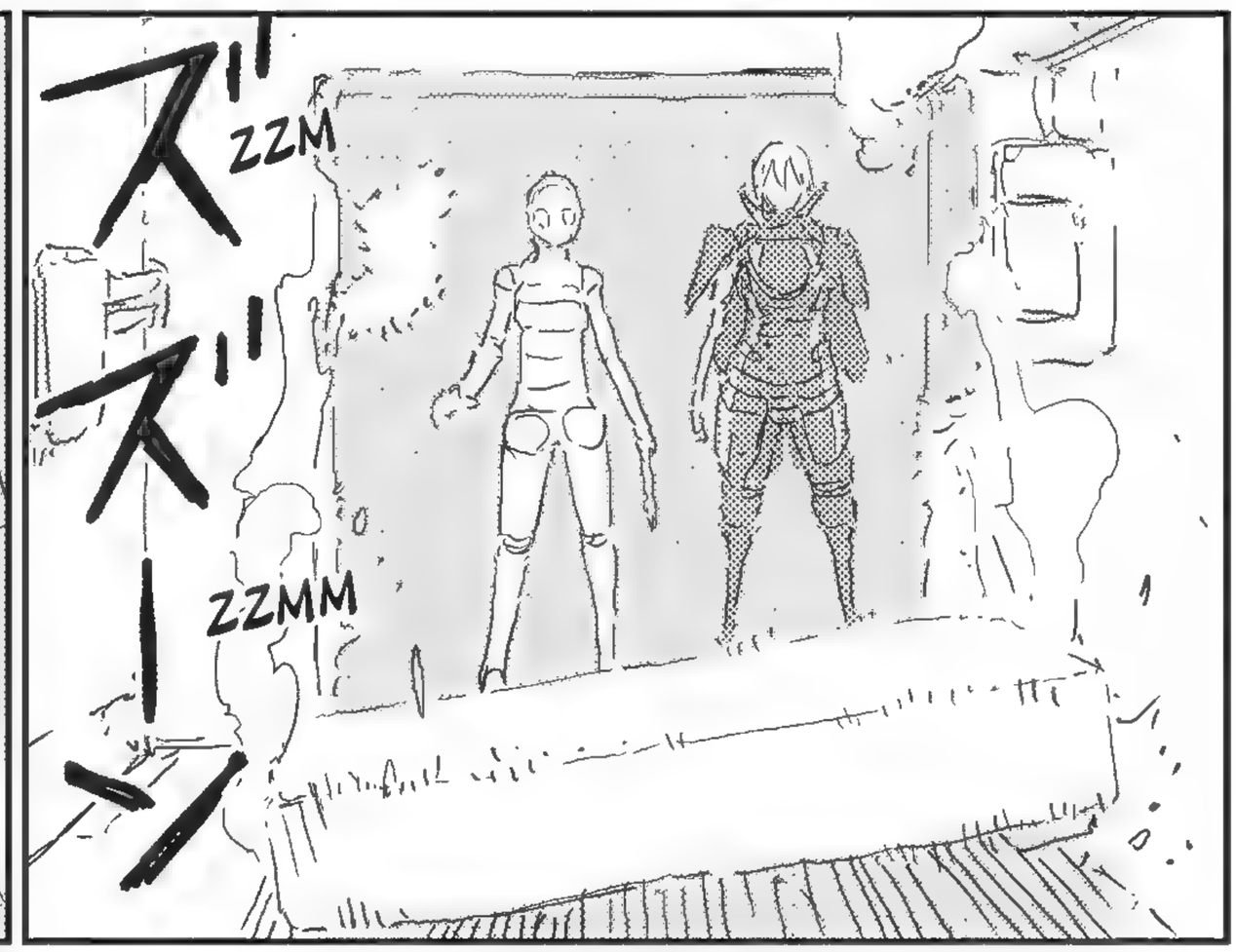
VEEEN


WUSSHH


BASHT


BZZT
ZZT
!!

KEISHA
!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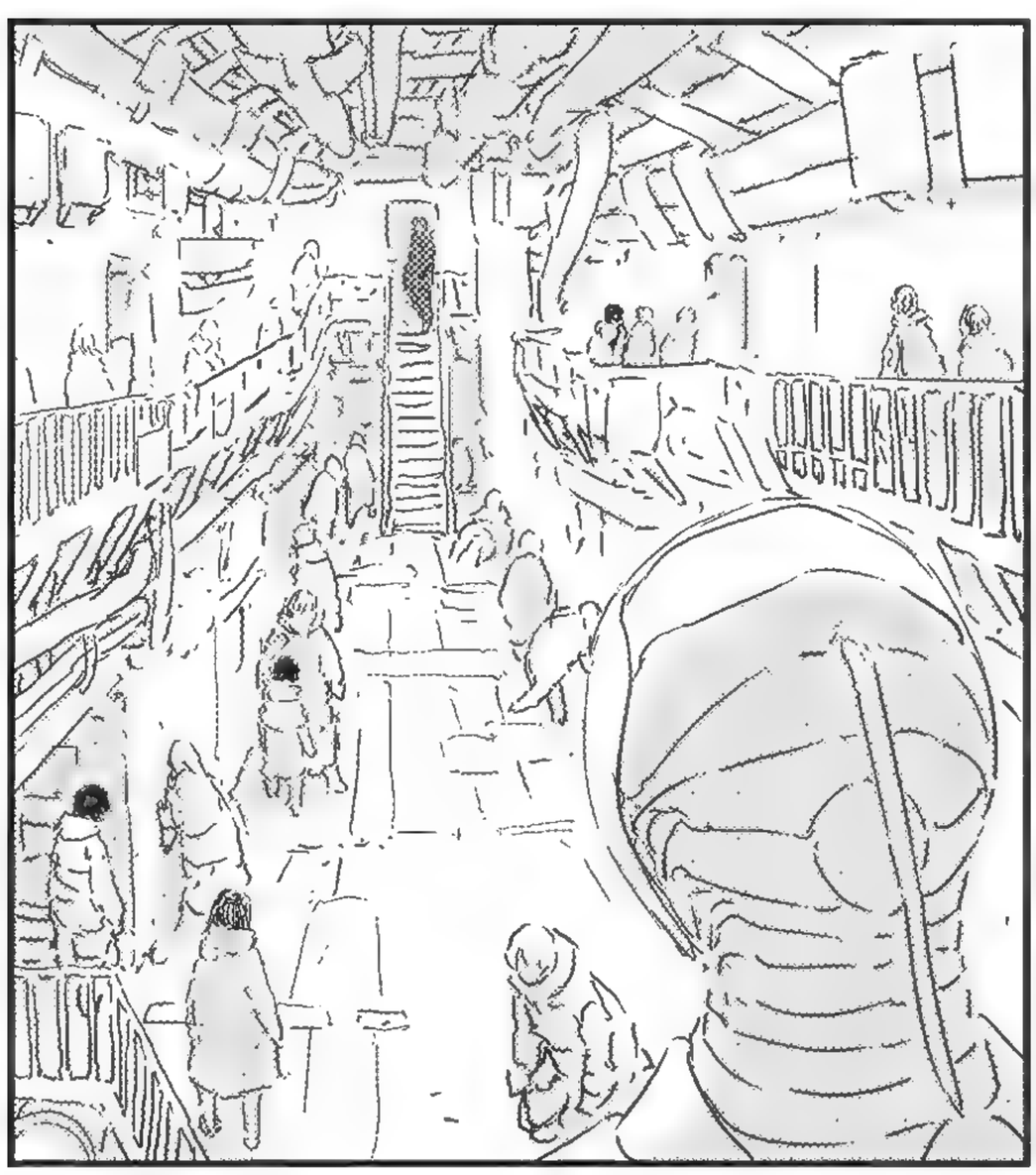

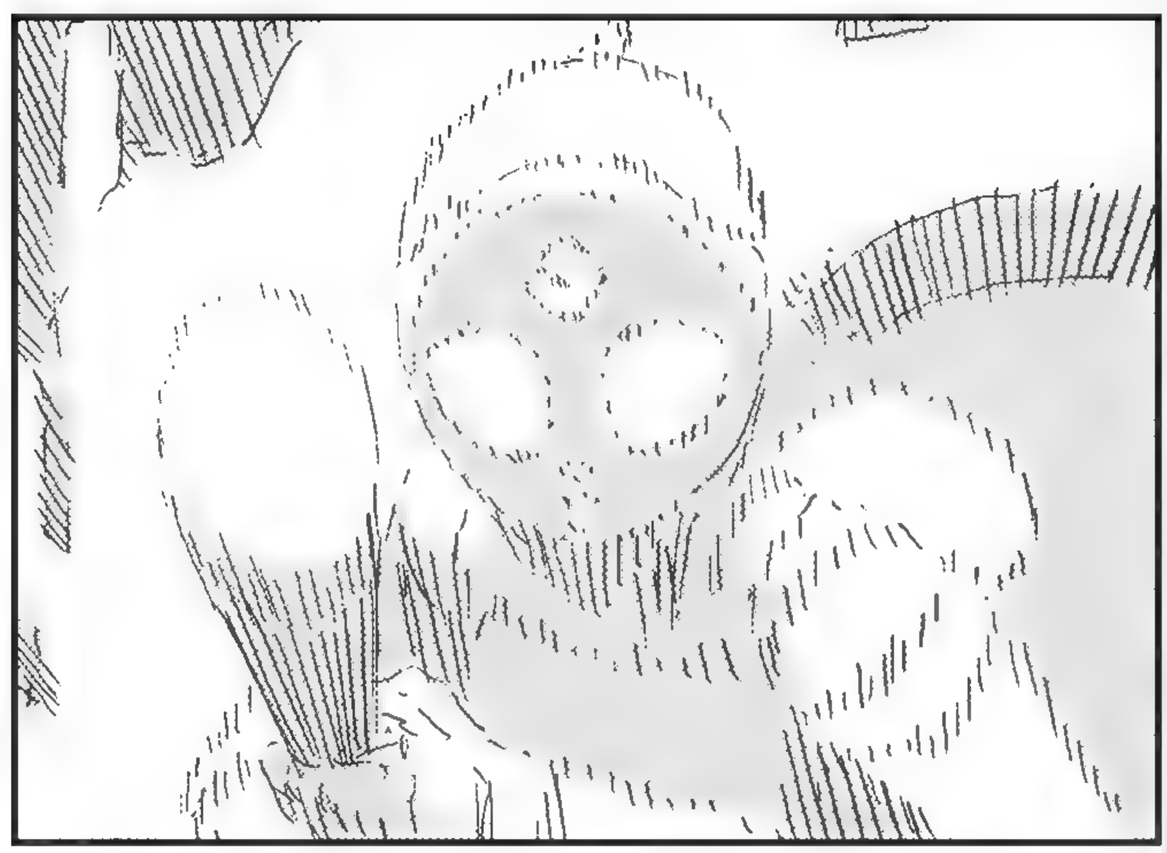

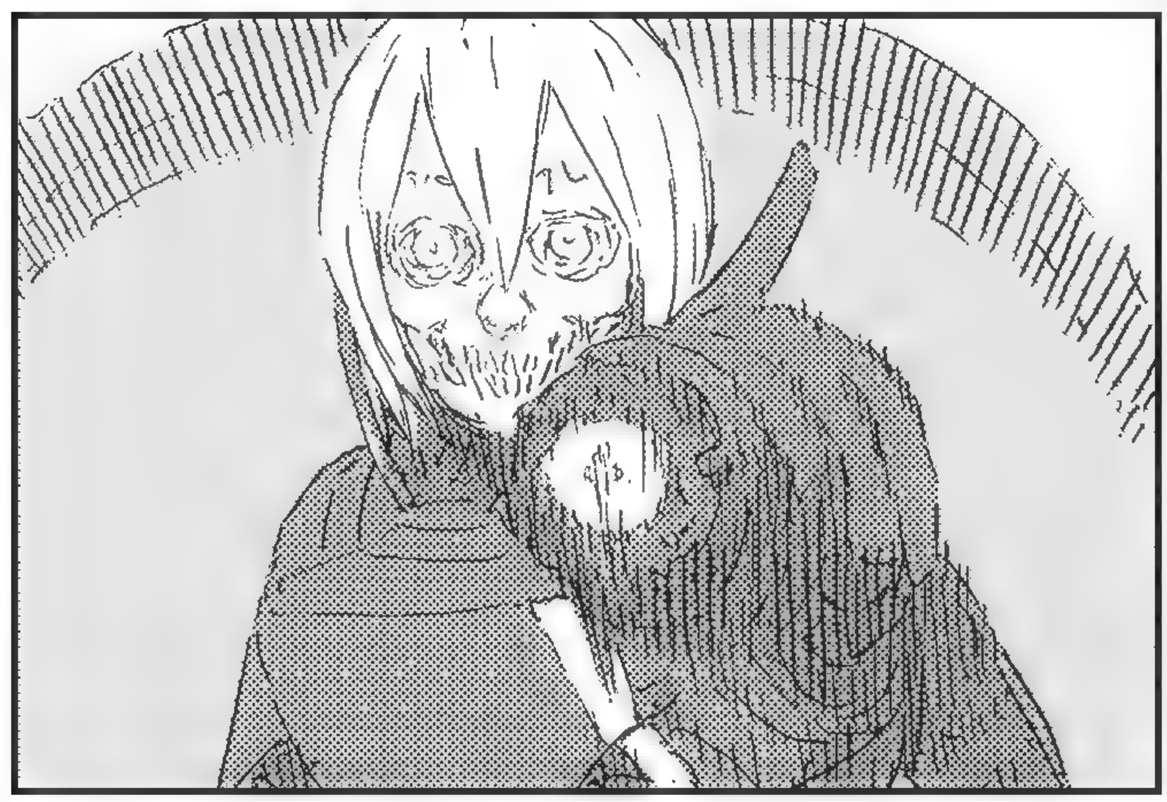

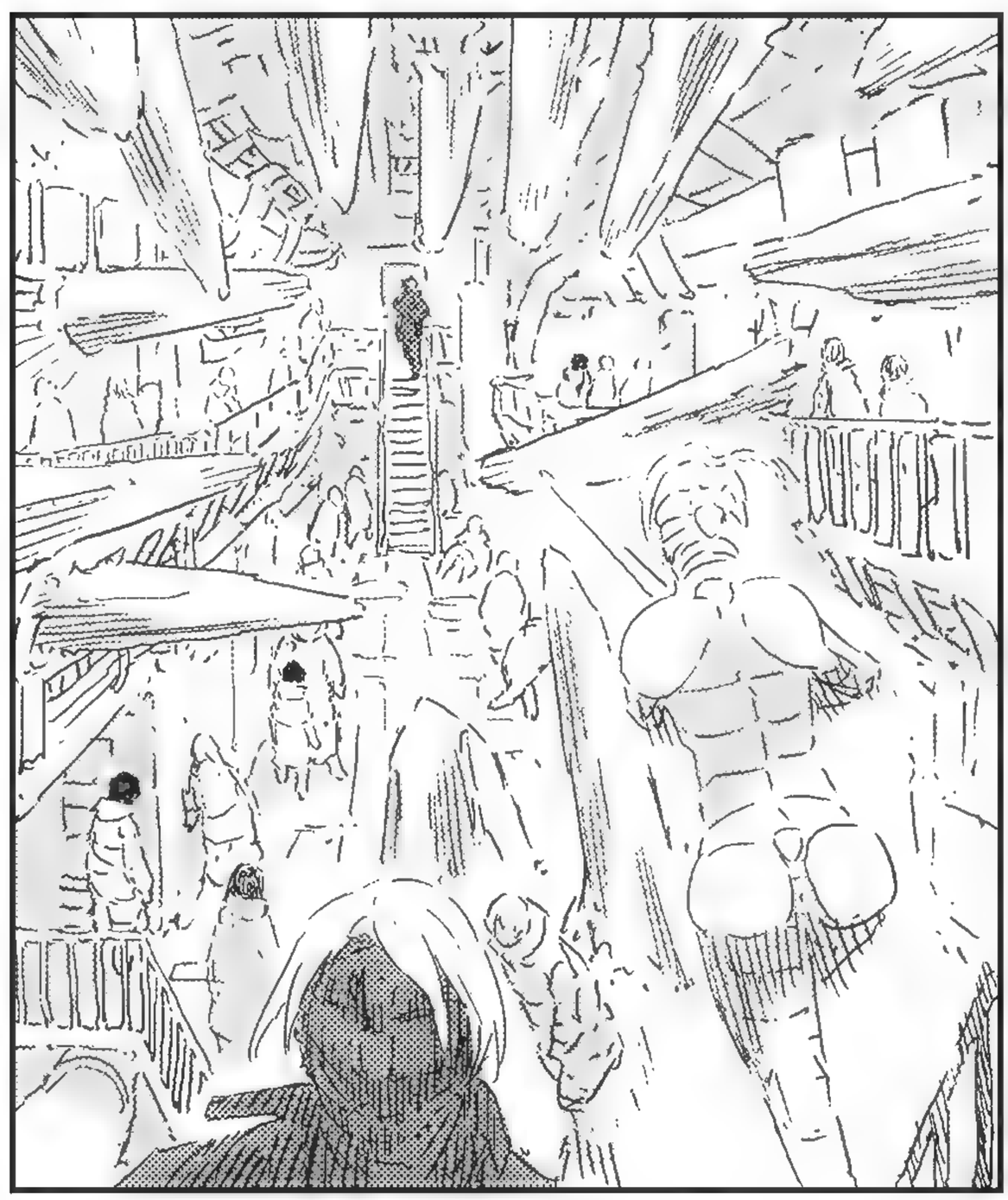

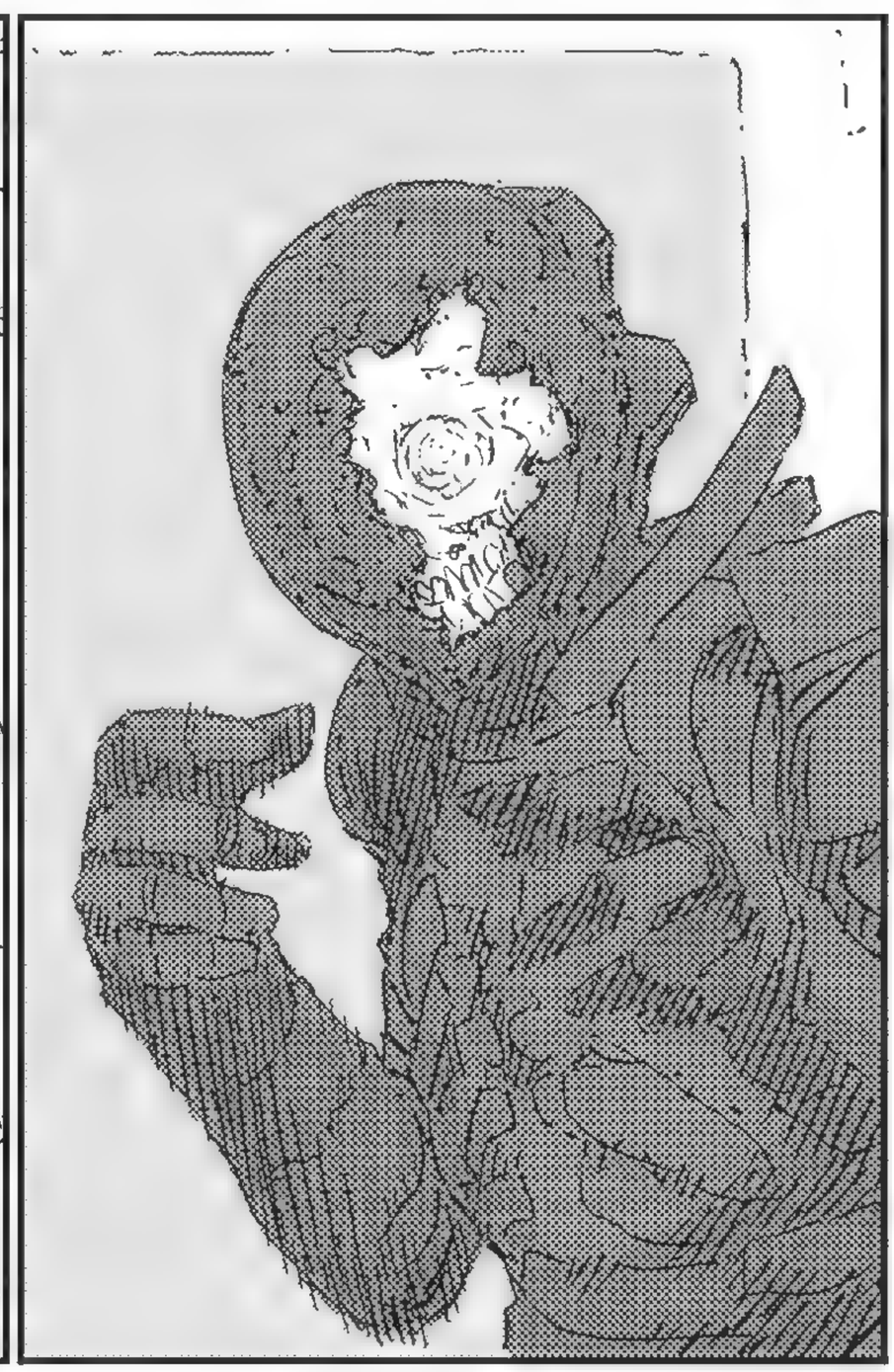

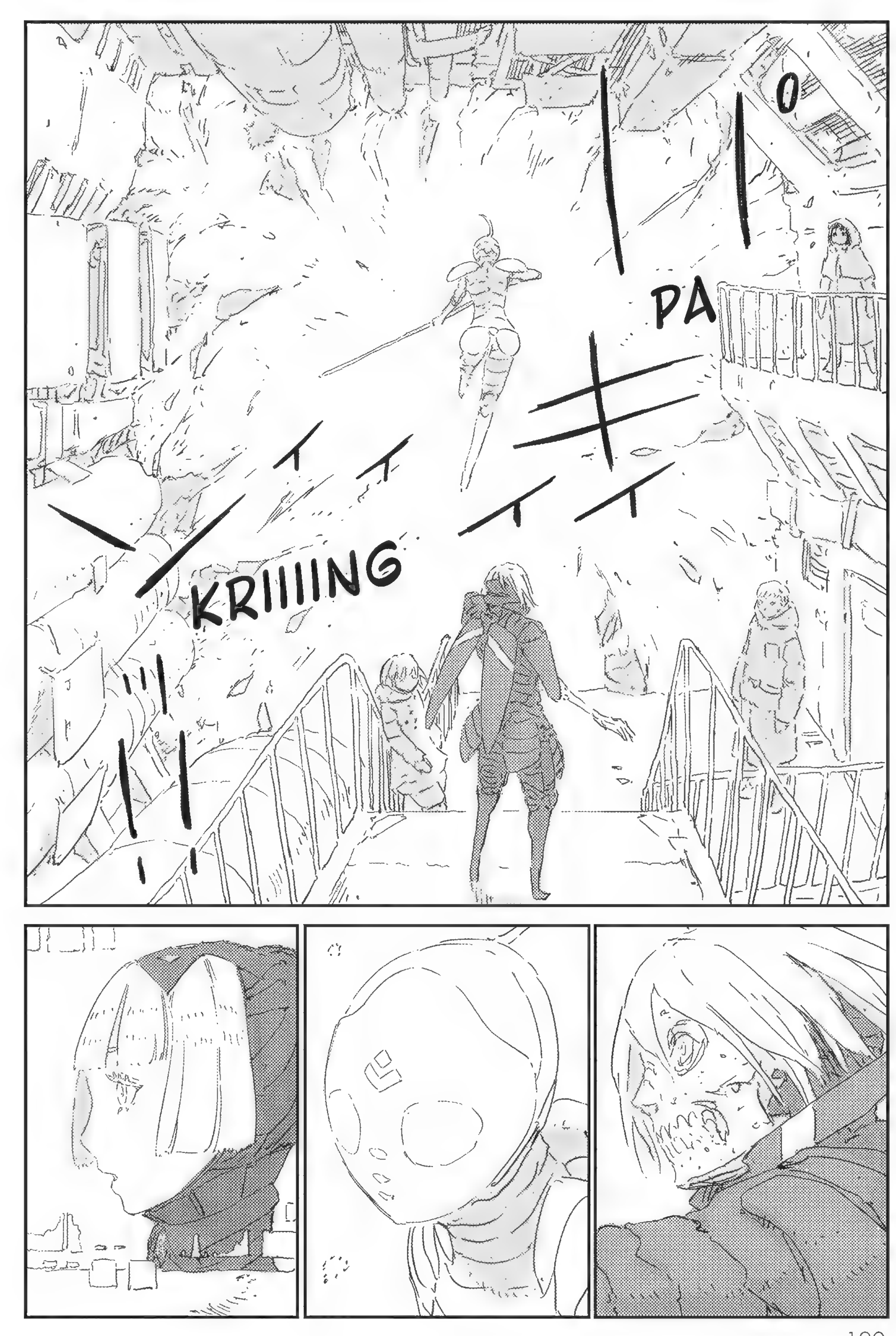
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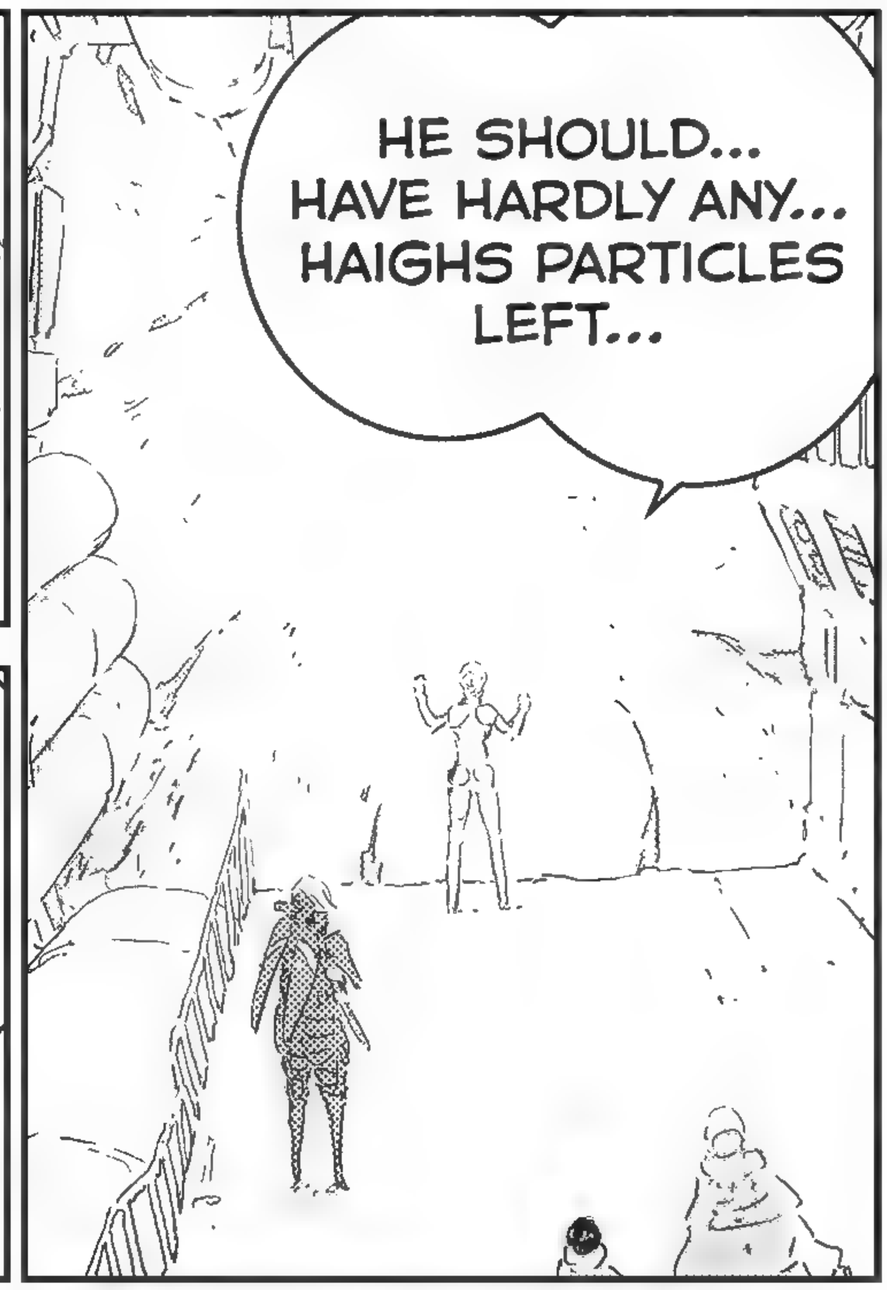
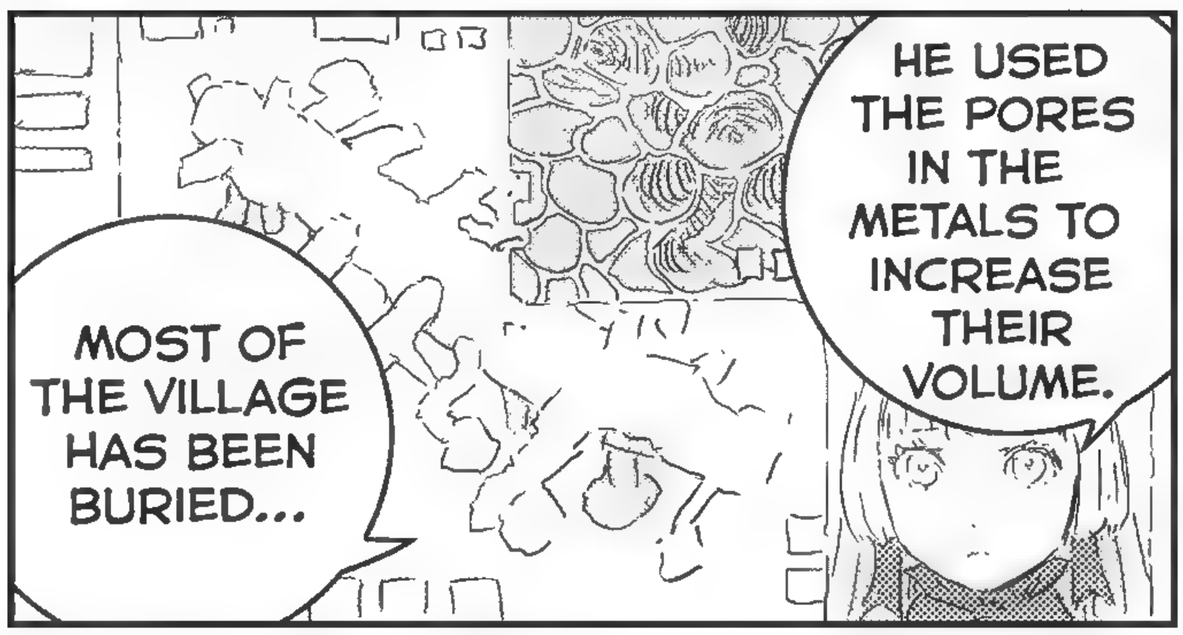
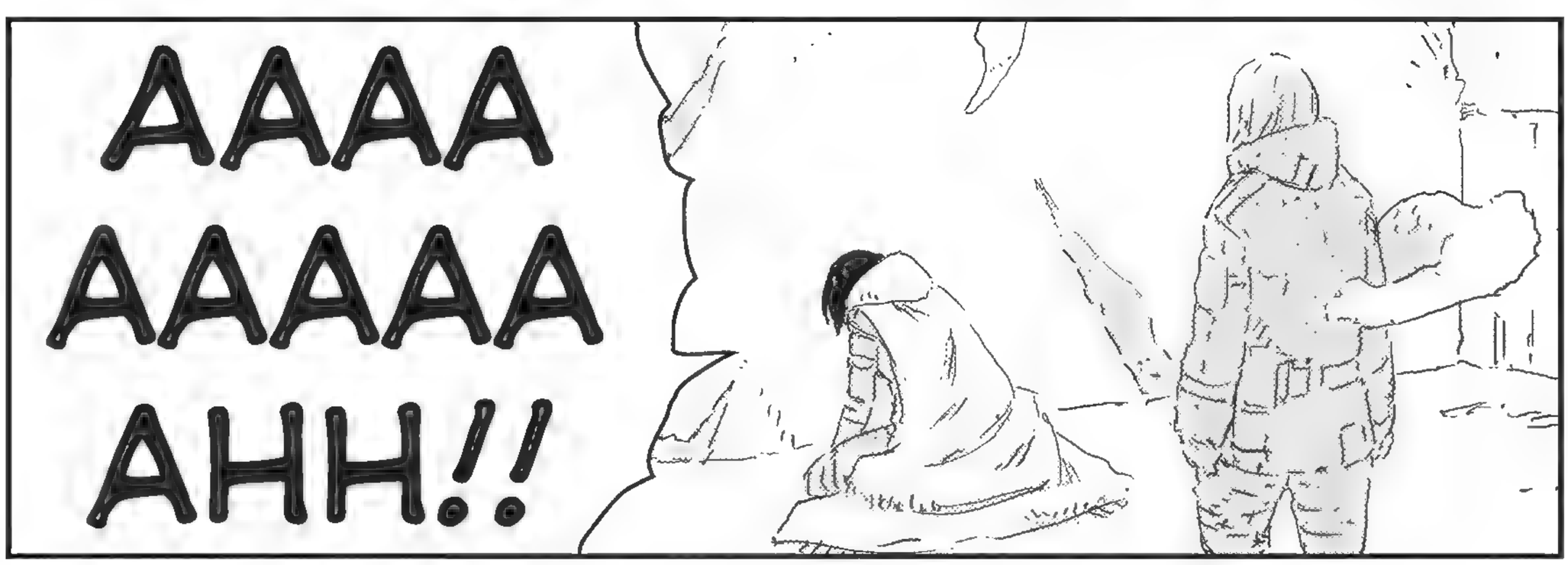
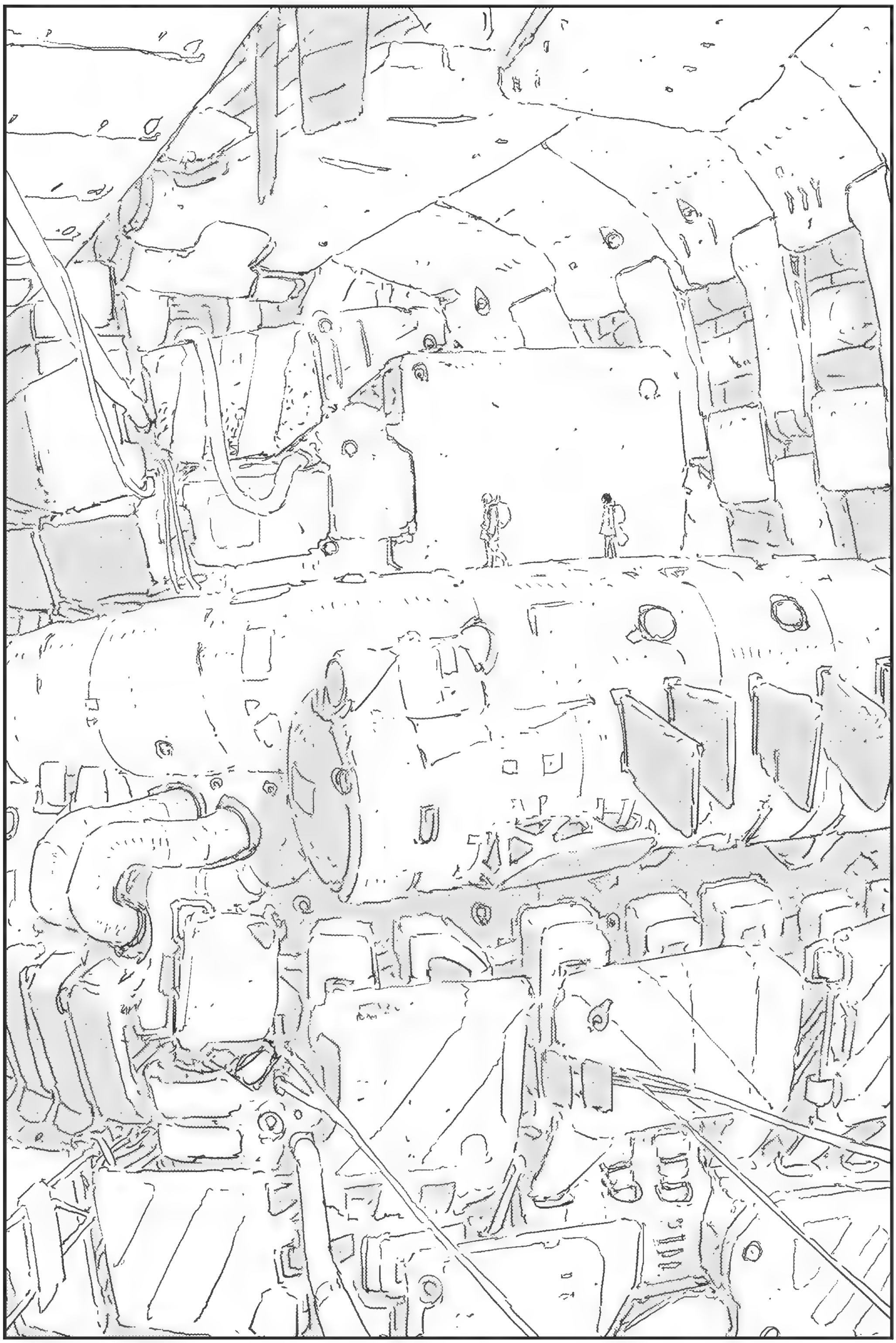






CHAPTER 14 END

CHAPTER 15



WOOOO

BIG BROTHER!

KEISHA ...

...

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE VILLAGE?

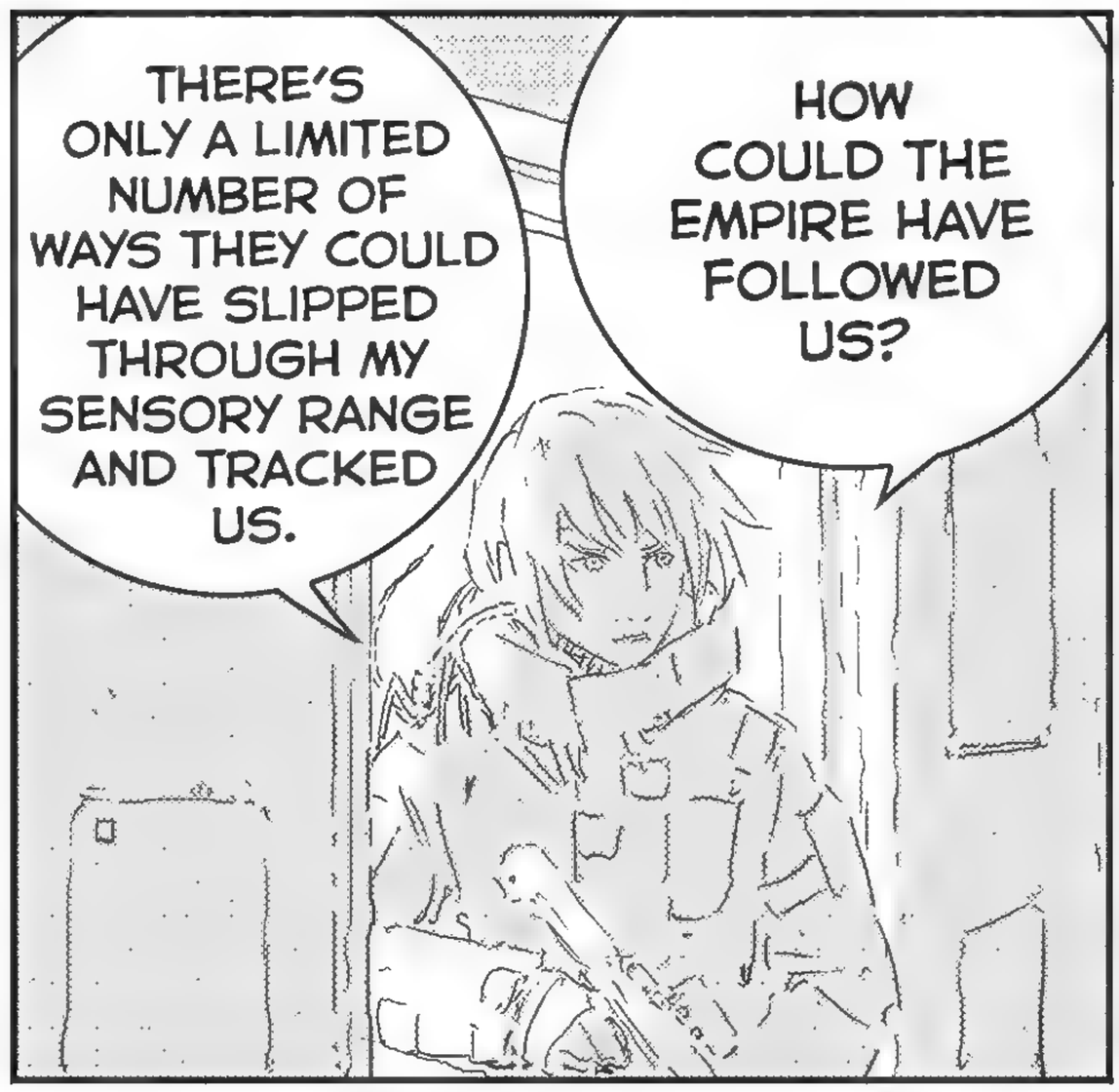
THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF IRF NIKK'S CITIZENS...
DON'T TELL ME... THAT THIS IS ALL OF US?

...
WHERE IS EVERYBODY ELSE?

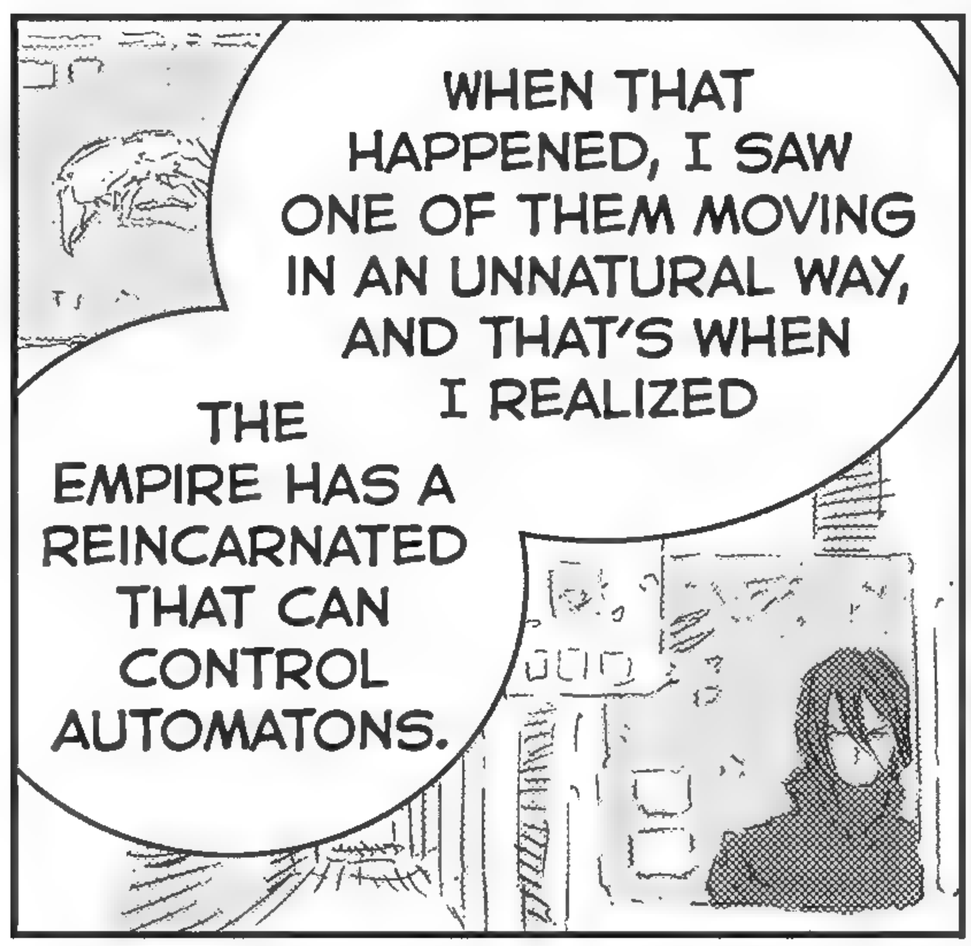
I SUMMONED YOU BECAUSE I WANTED TO MEET THE EMISSARY FROM THE CORE.
NO...
I KNEW OF THE DANGER OF THIS HAPPEN-ING...

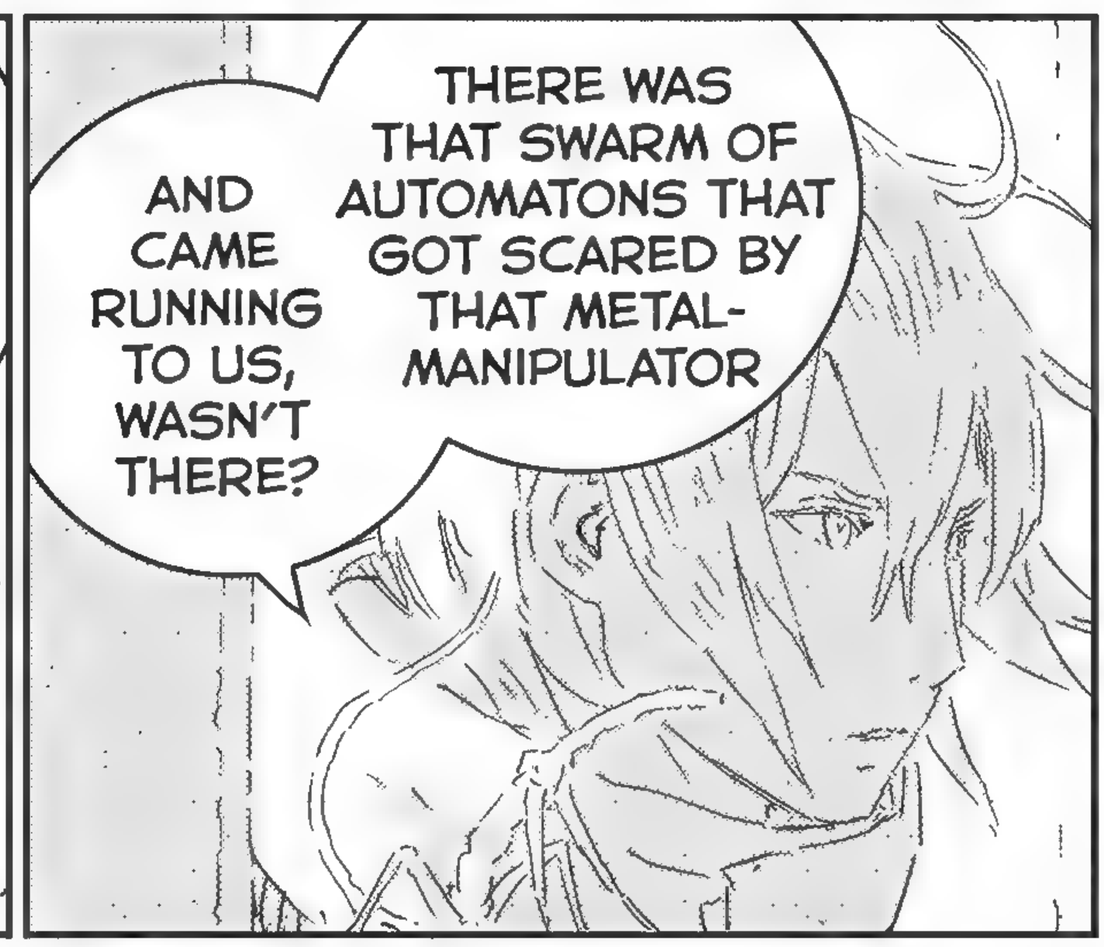
IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...
I'M SORRY ...

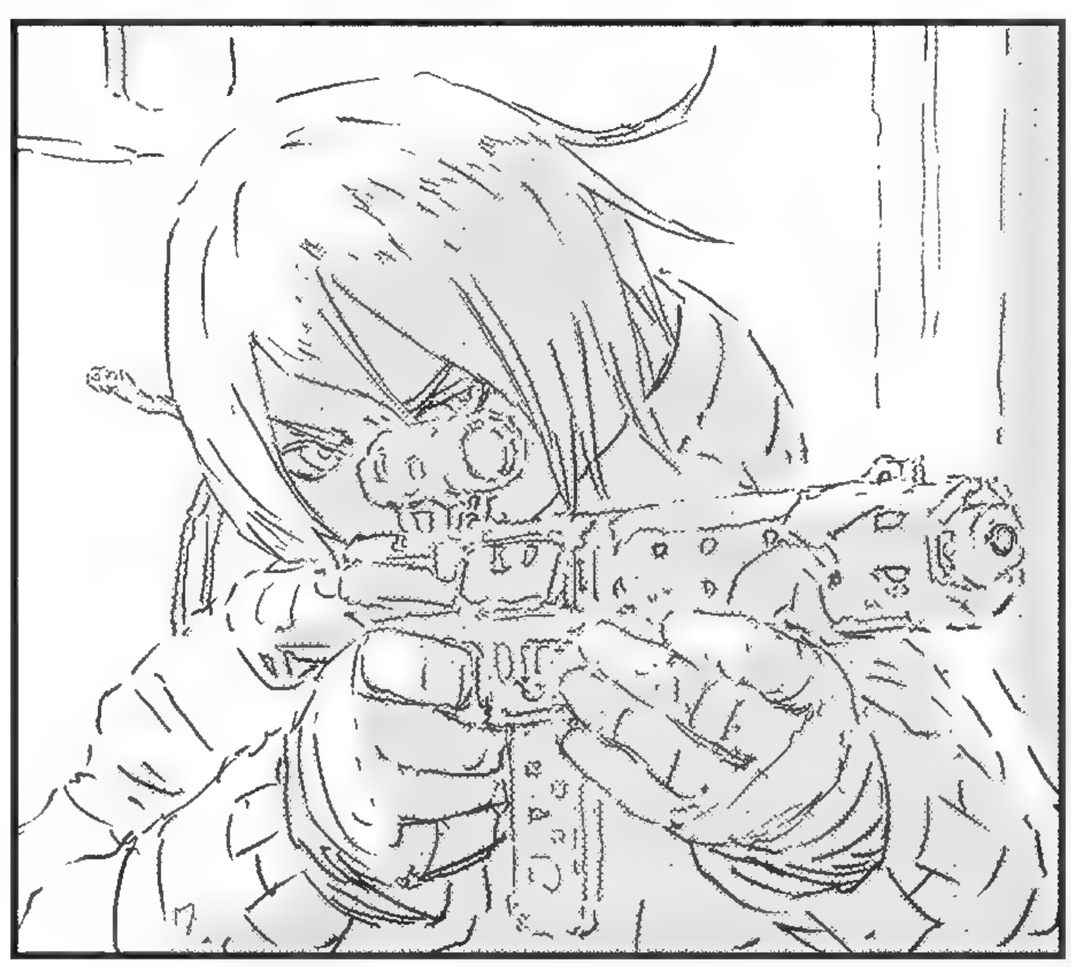
IT WAS MY GREED ...
SO I'M THE ONE TO BLAME.


THERE'S ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF WAYS THEY COULD HAVE SLIPPED THROUGH MY SENSORY RANGE AND TRACKED US.
HOW COULD THE EMPIRE HAVE FOLLOWED US?

VWOOOM

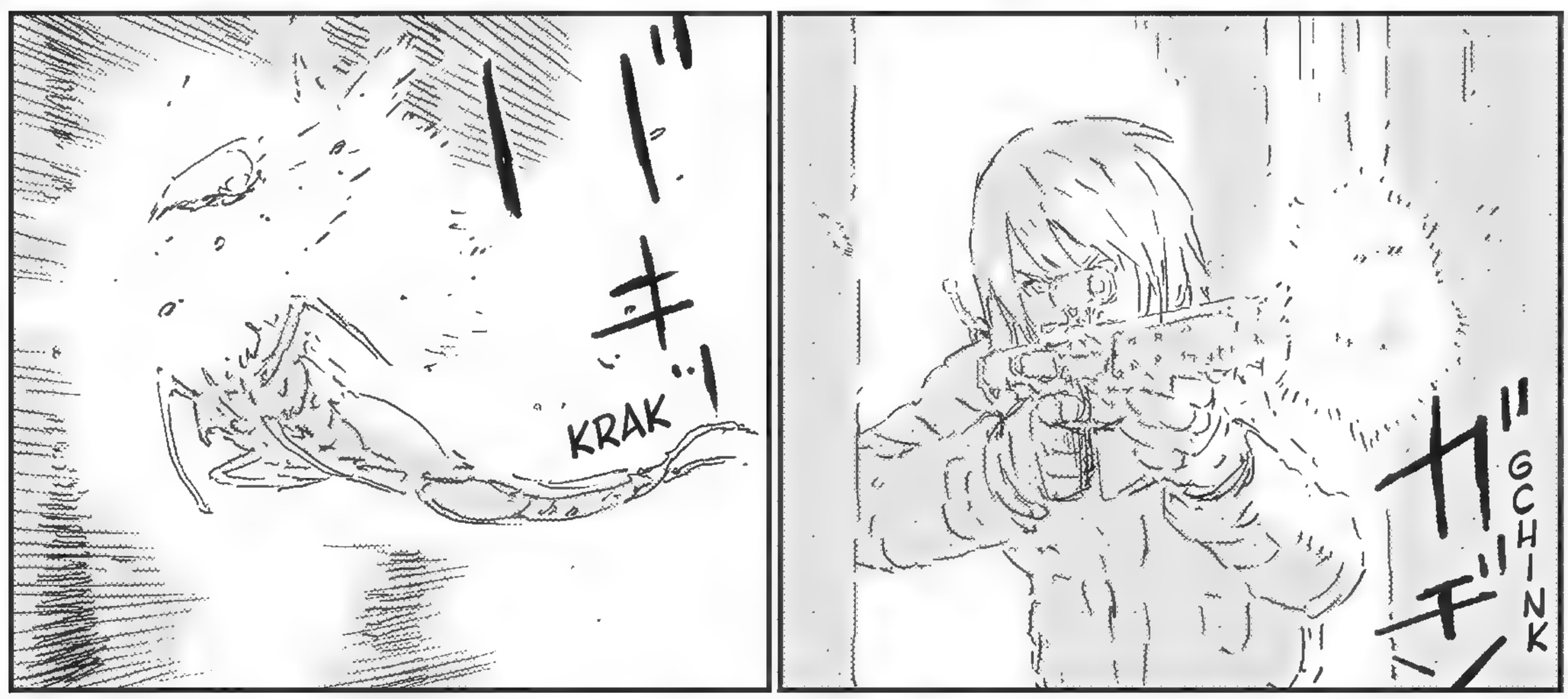

WHEN THAT HAPPENED, I SAW ONE OF THEM MOVING IN AN UNNATURAL WAY, AND THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THE EMPIRE HAS A REINCARNATED THAT CAN CONTROL AUTOMATONS.

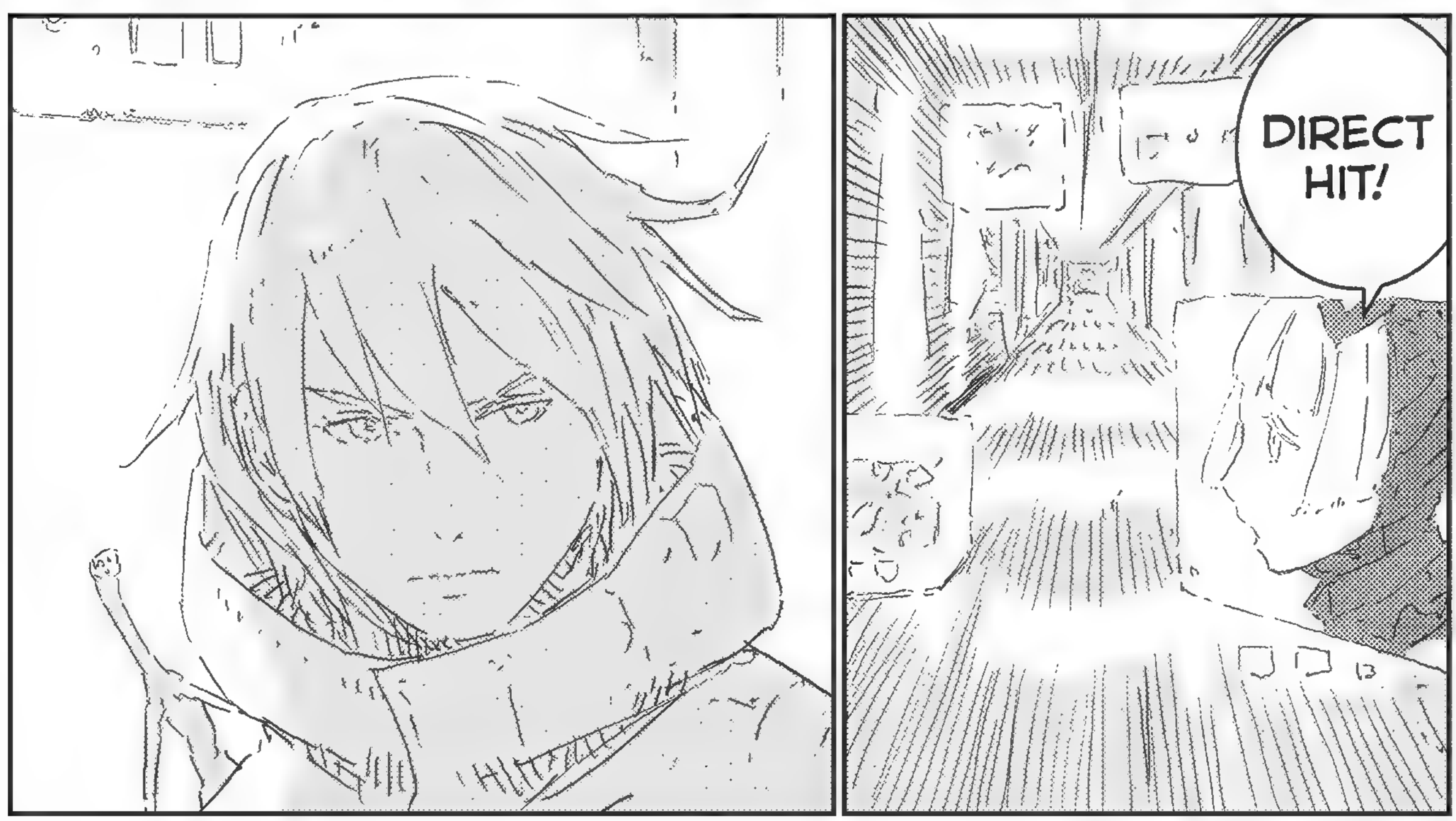

THERE WAS THAT SWARM OF AUTOMATONS THAT GOT SCARED BY THAT METAL-MANIPULATOR AND CAME RUNNING TO US, WASN'T THERE?

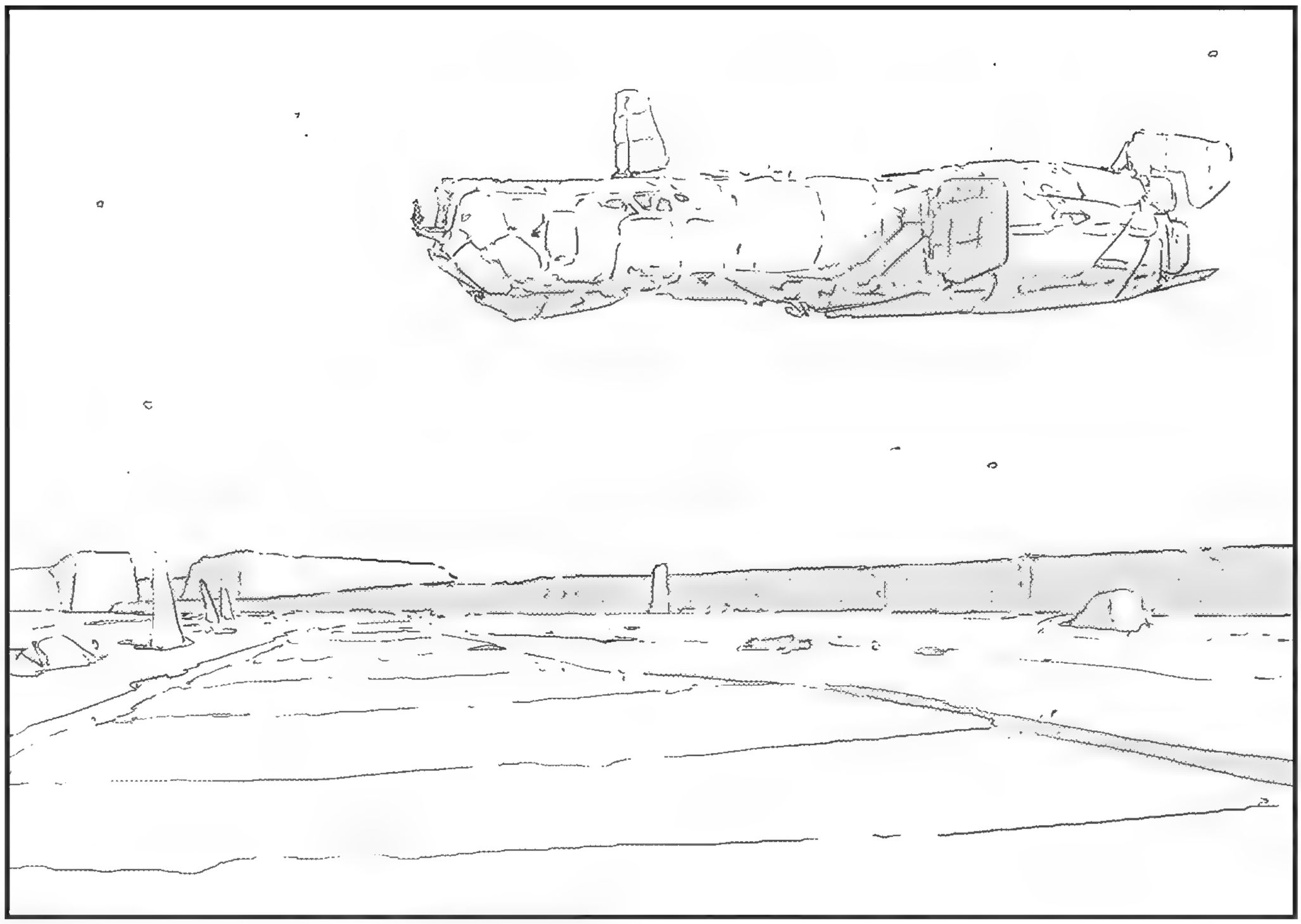


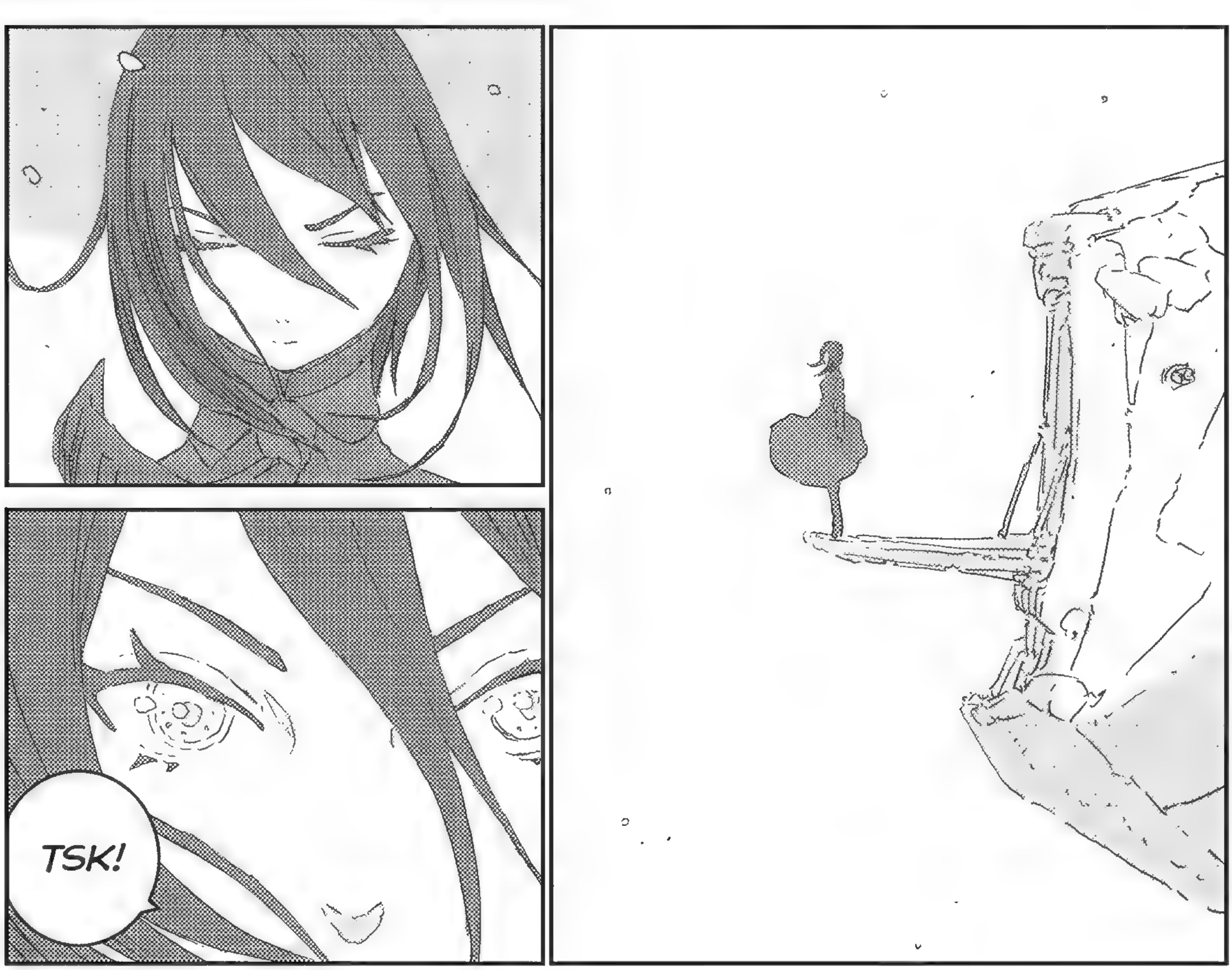
IF SOME-ONE IS STILL AFTER US, THEY'LL HAVE TO SHOW THEM-SELVES.
VERY SOON NOW WE'LL BE ENTERING AN EXTREMELY LONG AND STRAIGHT TUNNEL.

THERE!
THAT'S IT!!
WOOOSSH


KRAK
GCHINK

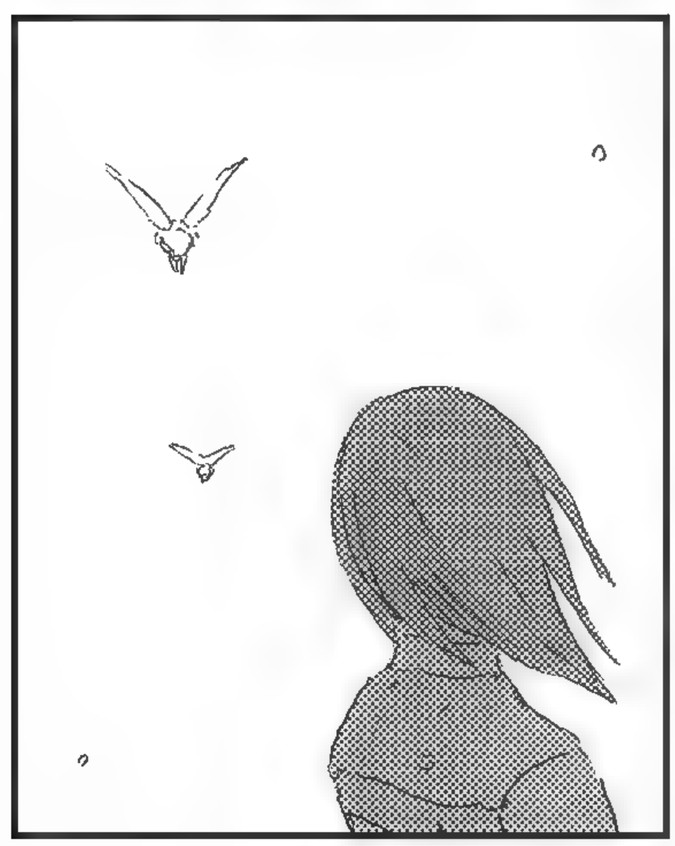

DIRECT HIT!



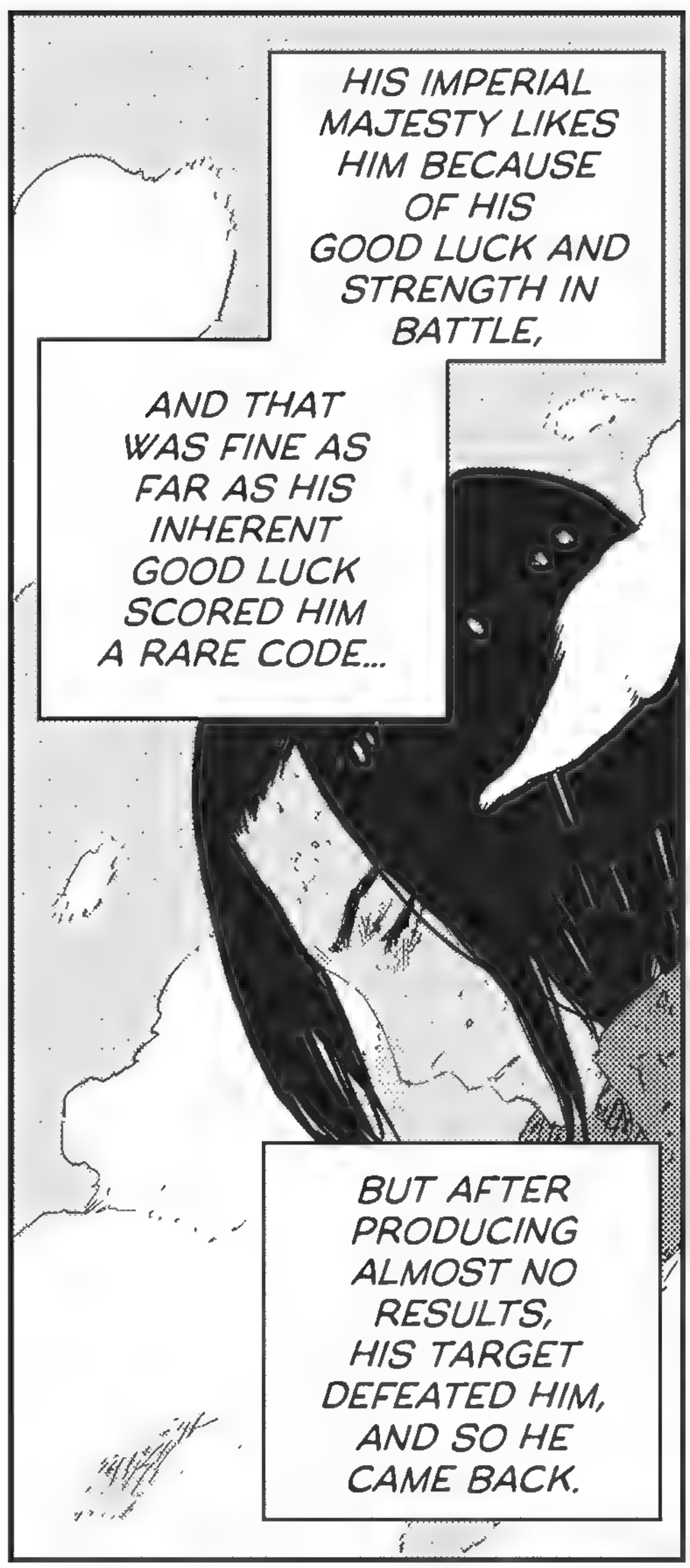

TSK!

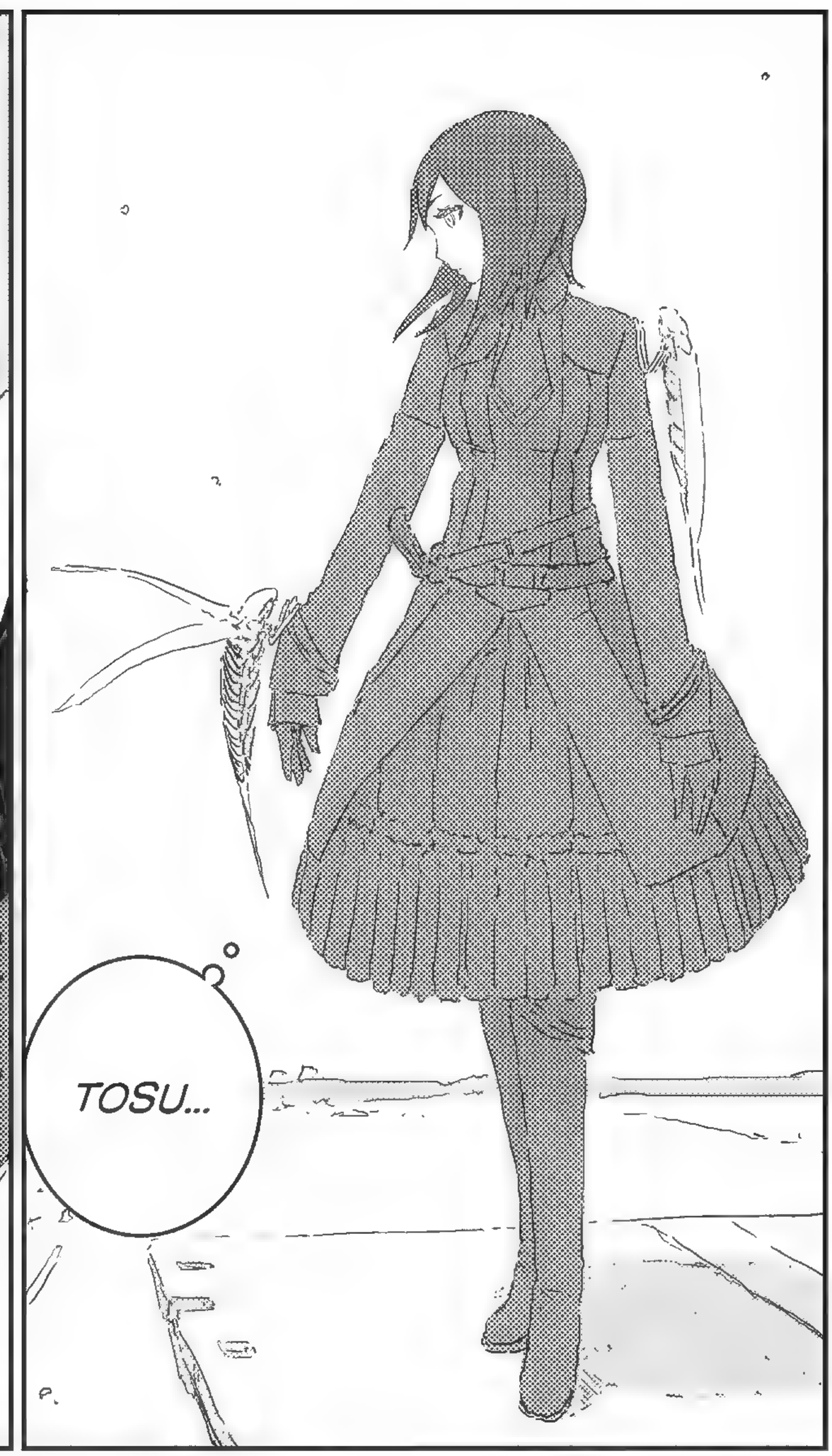
LADY JATE!
THERE'S NO RESPONSE FROM LORD TOSU!

SO THEY'VE BECOME AWARE OF ME.



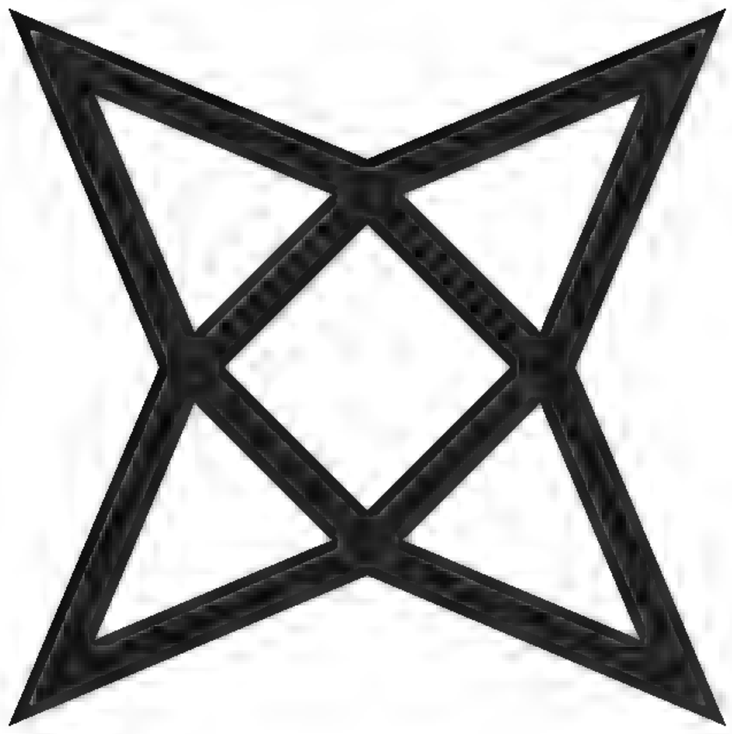
LEAVE HIM.
HE'S JUST LYING DORMANT IN ORDER TO RECOVER.



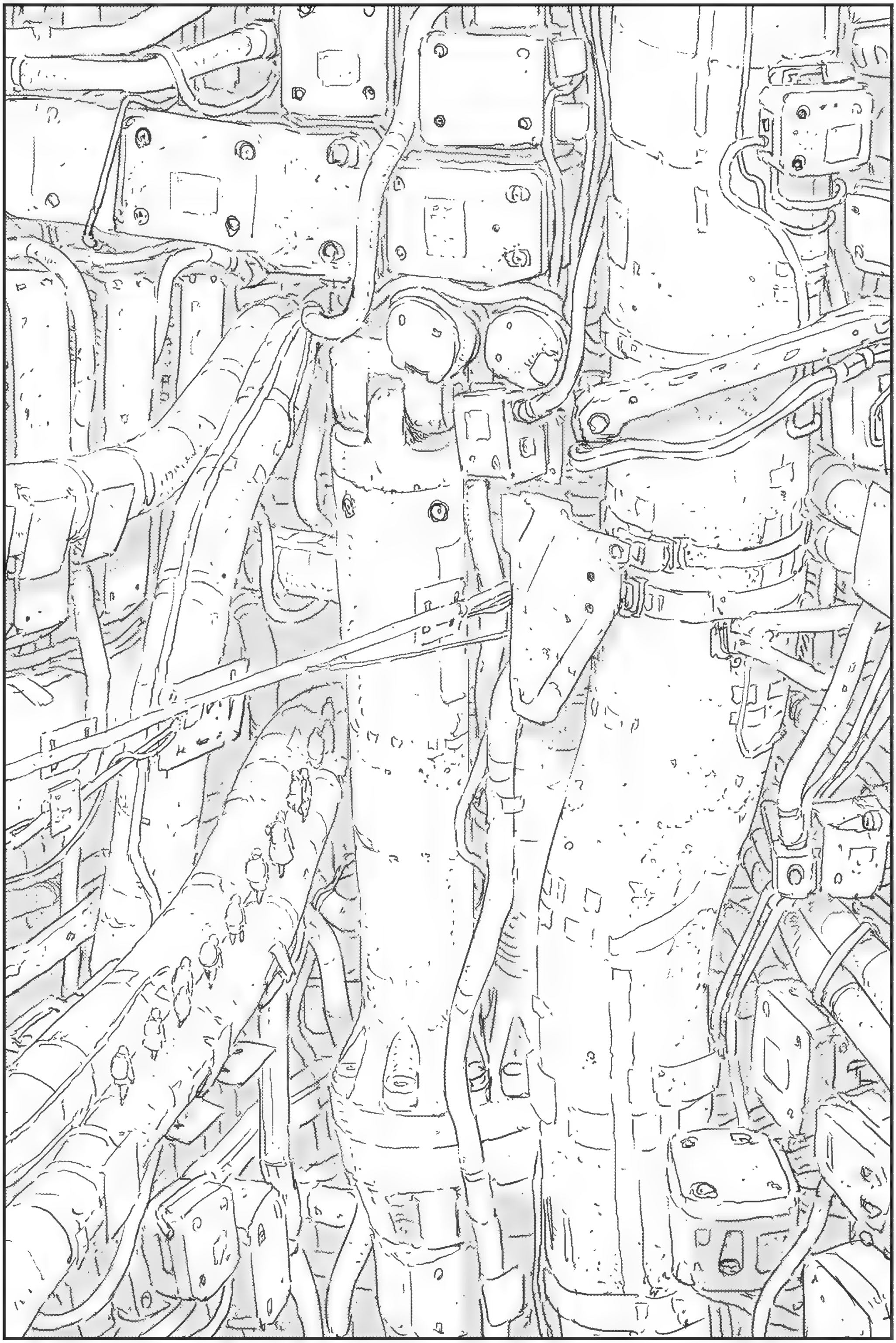


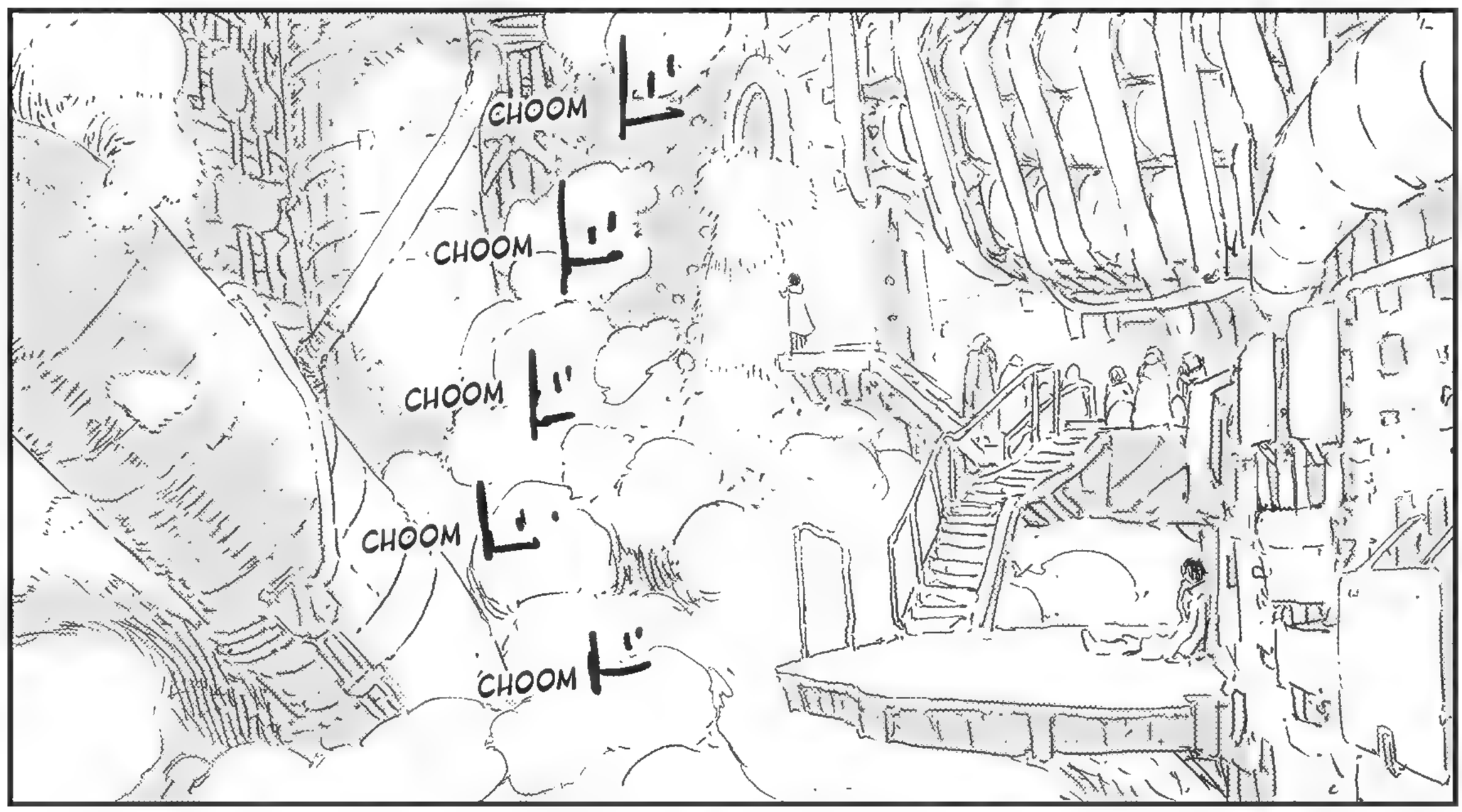
CHAPTER 15 END

APOSIMZ



CHAPTER 16




CHOOM
CHOOM
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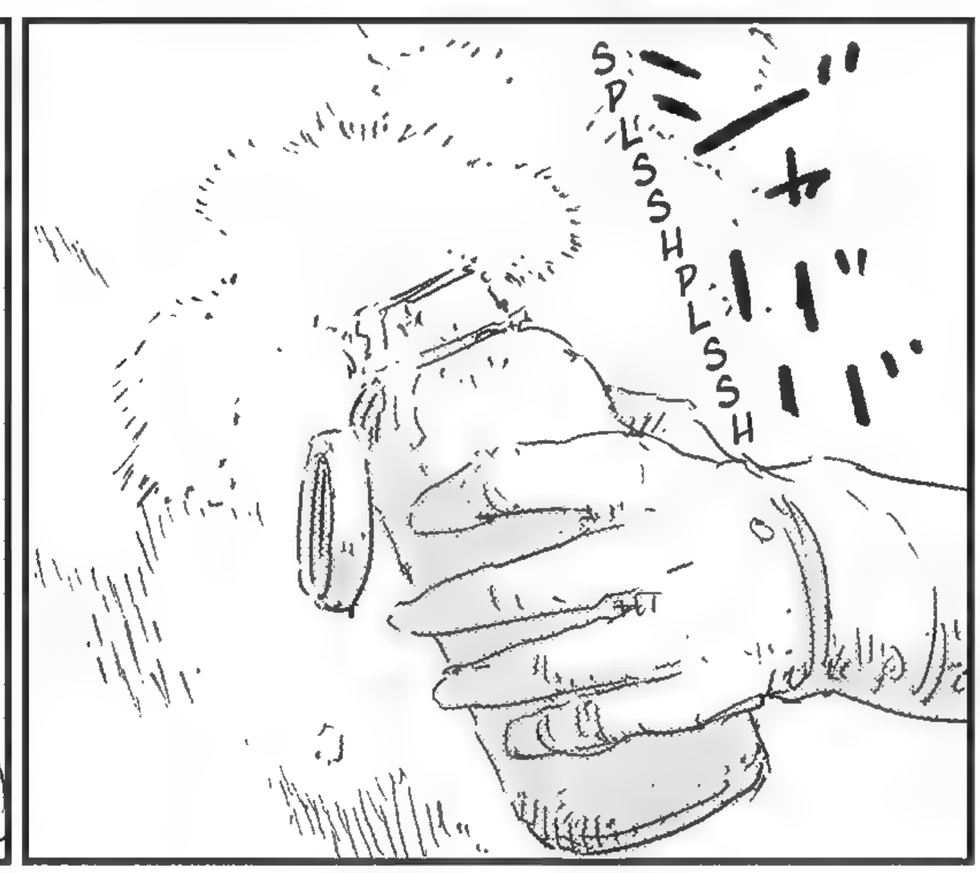
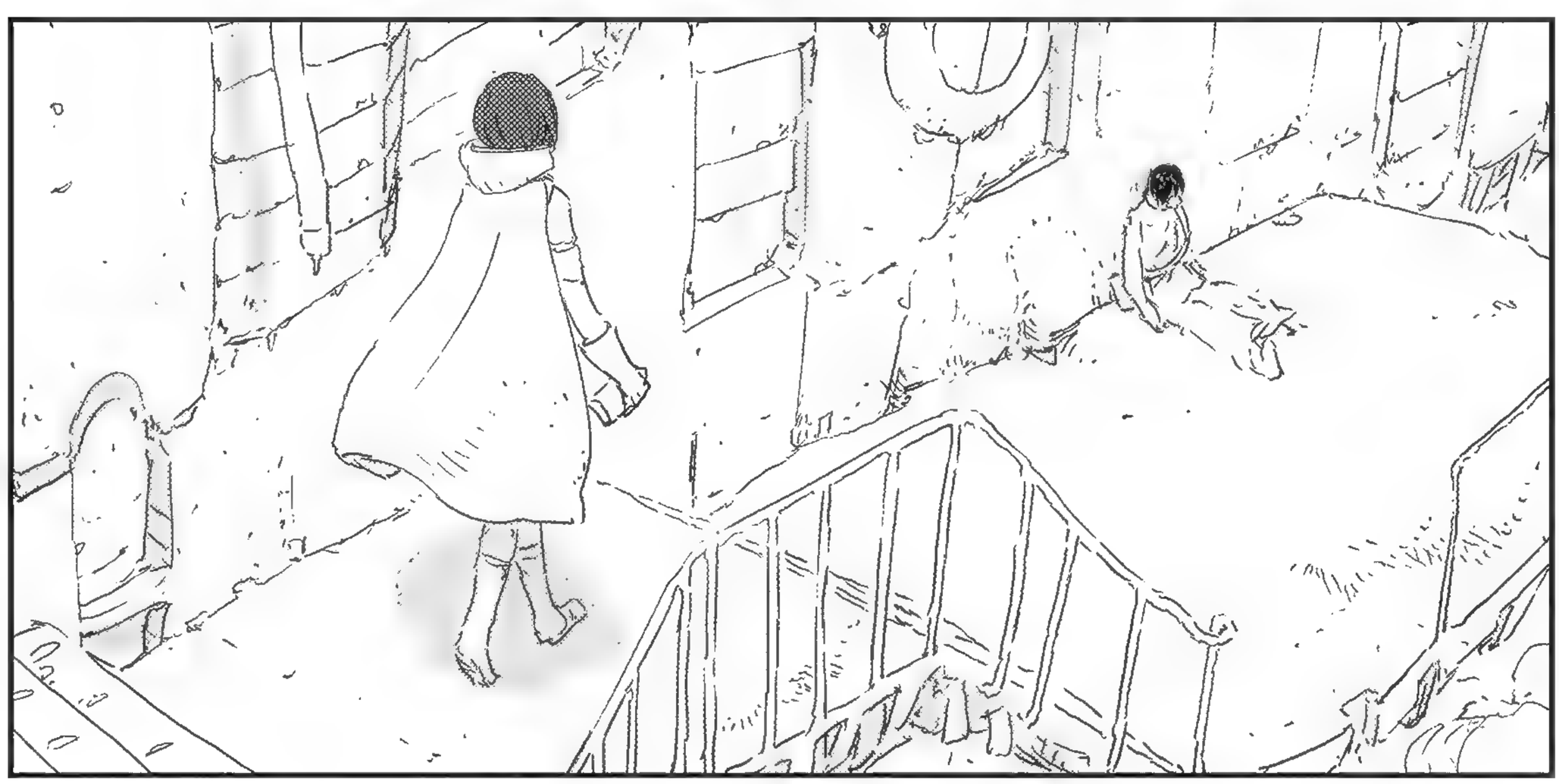
SQUIK

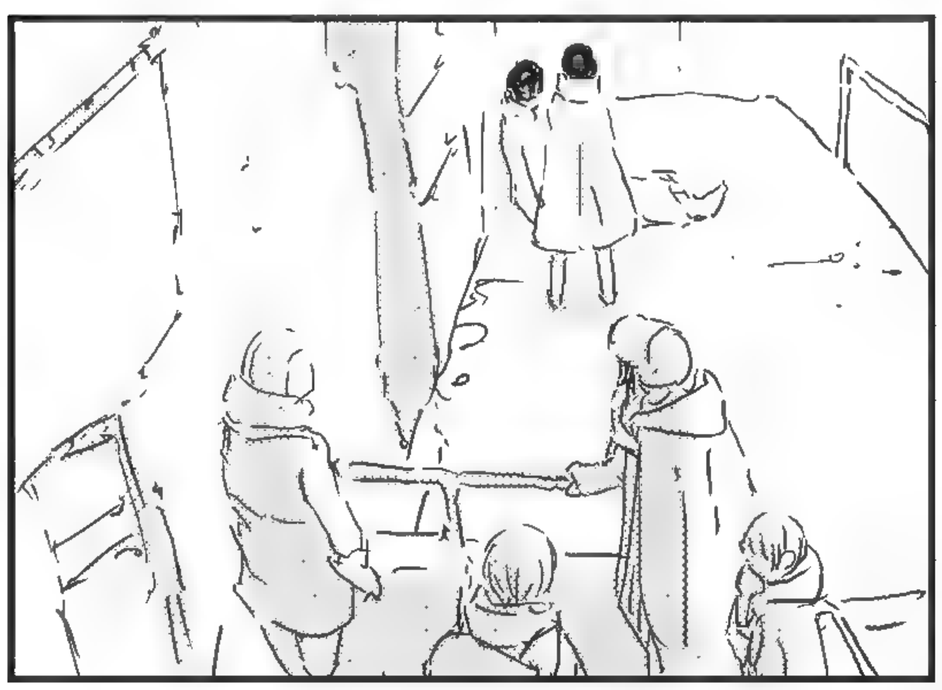

SPLSSHPLSSH



YOU LISTENED IN ON MY CONVERSATION WITH TITANIA, DIDN'T YOU?
KEISHA.
DID TITANIA TELL YOU?
ABOUT WHAT SHE READ IN MY THOUGHTS THEN?
BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
HUH ?!

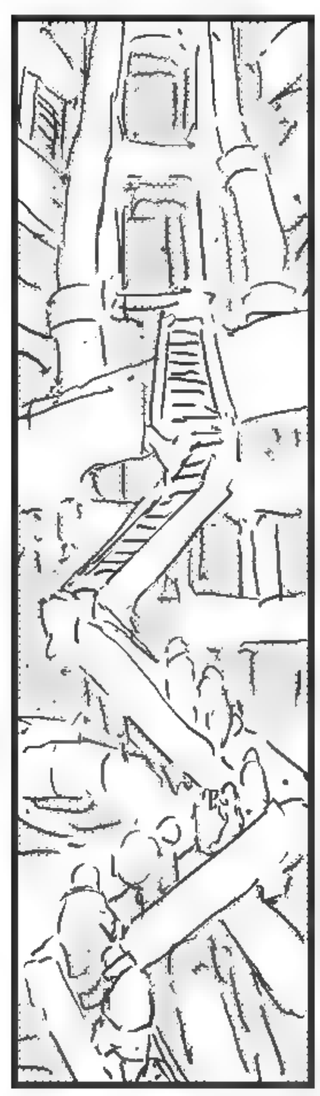
AND TITANIA AND ETHEROW ARE HELPING TO GET EVERYONE
TO A SAFE PLACE.
WE'VE GOT OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING!
DID YOU THINK SHE HAD...?

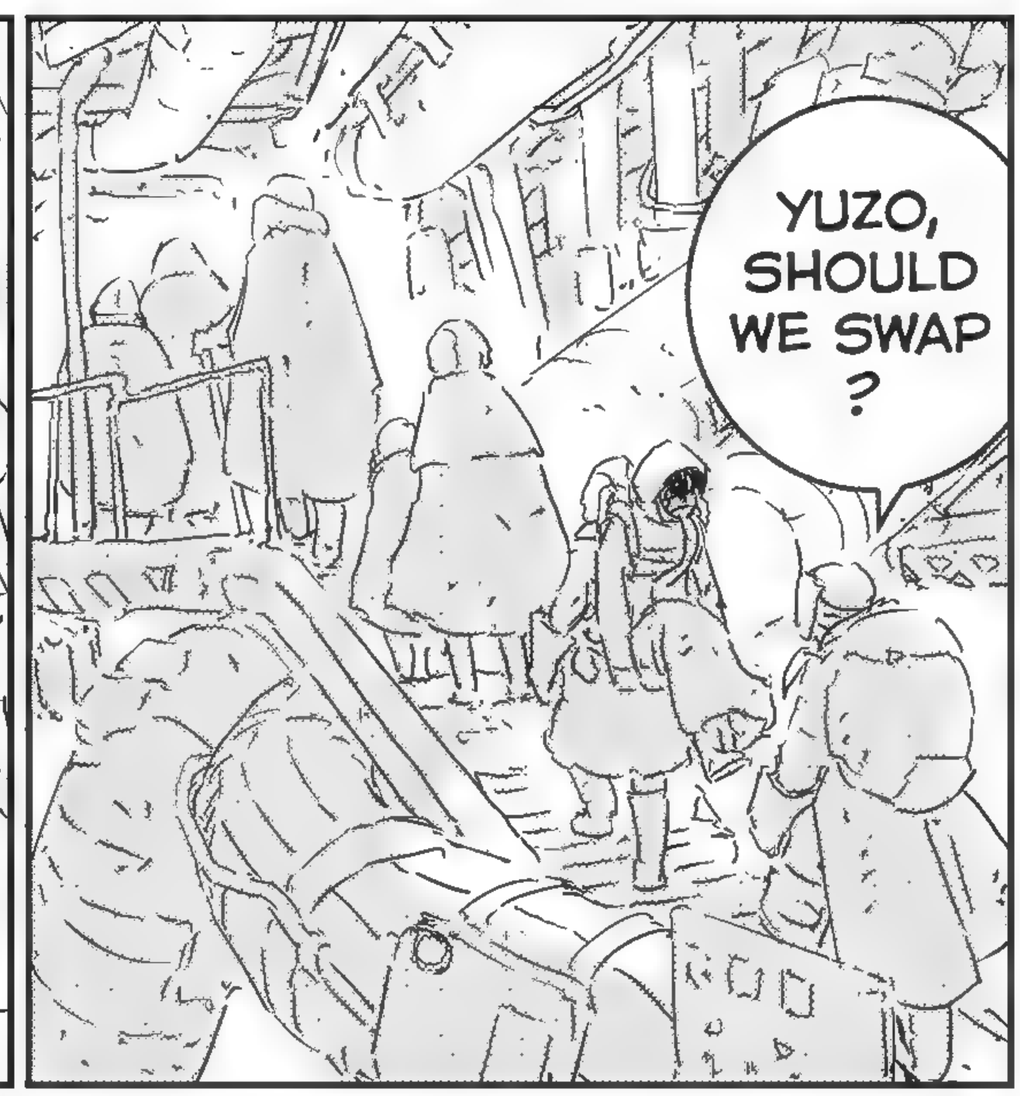


LEAVE ME ALONE.
... ENOUGH.

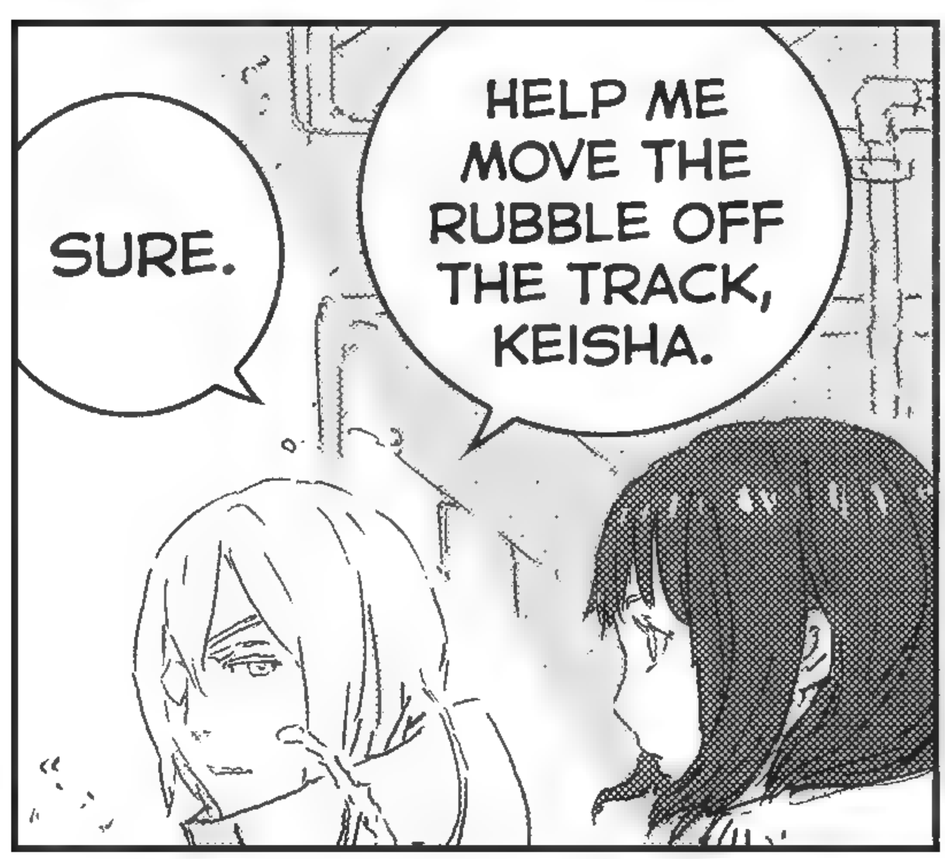
KEISHA, WHAT'S WRONG?

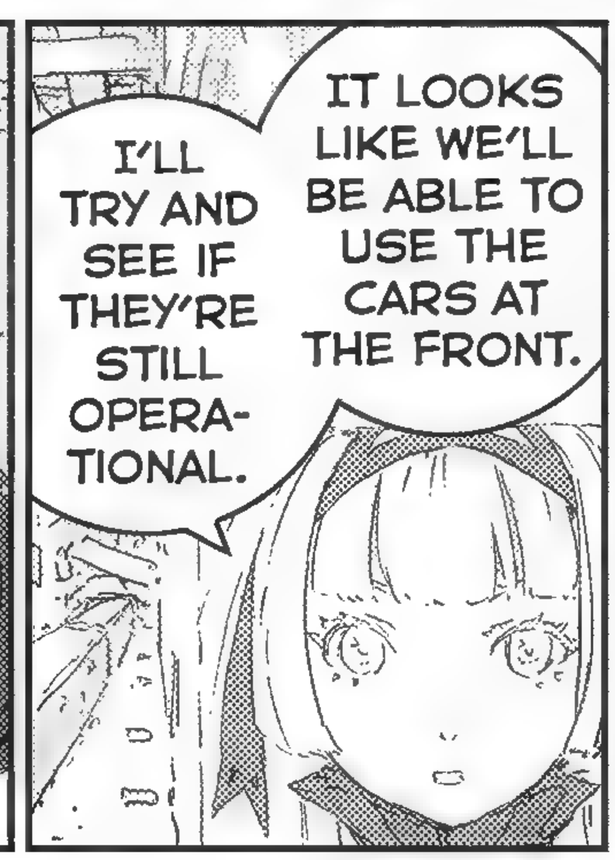


I'M FINE.


YUZO, SHOULD WE SWAP ?

THE TRACK CAR IS BURIED IN RUBBLE!


HELP ME MOVE THE RUBBLE OFF THE TRACK, KEISHA.
SURE.


IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO USE THE CARS AT THE FRONT.
I'LL TRY AND SEE IF THEY'RE STILL OPERA-TIONAL.

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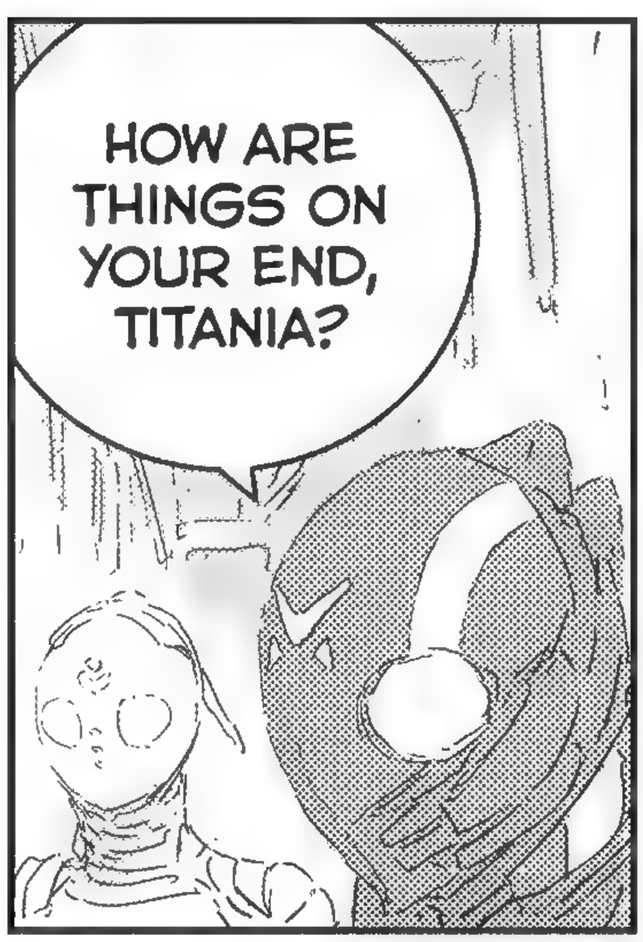
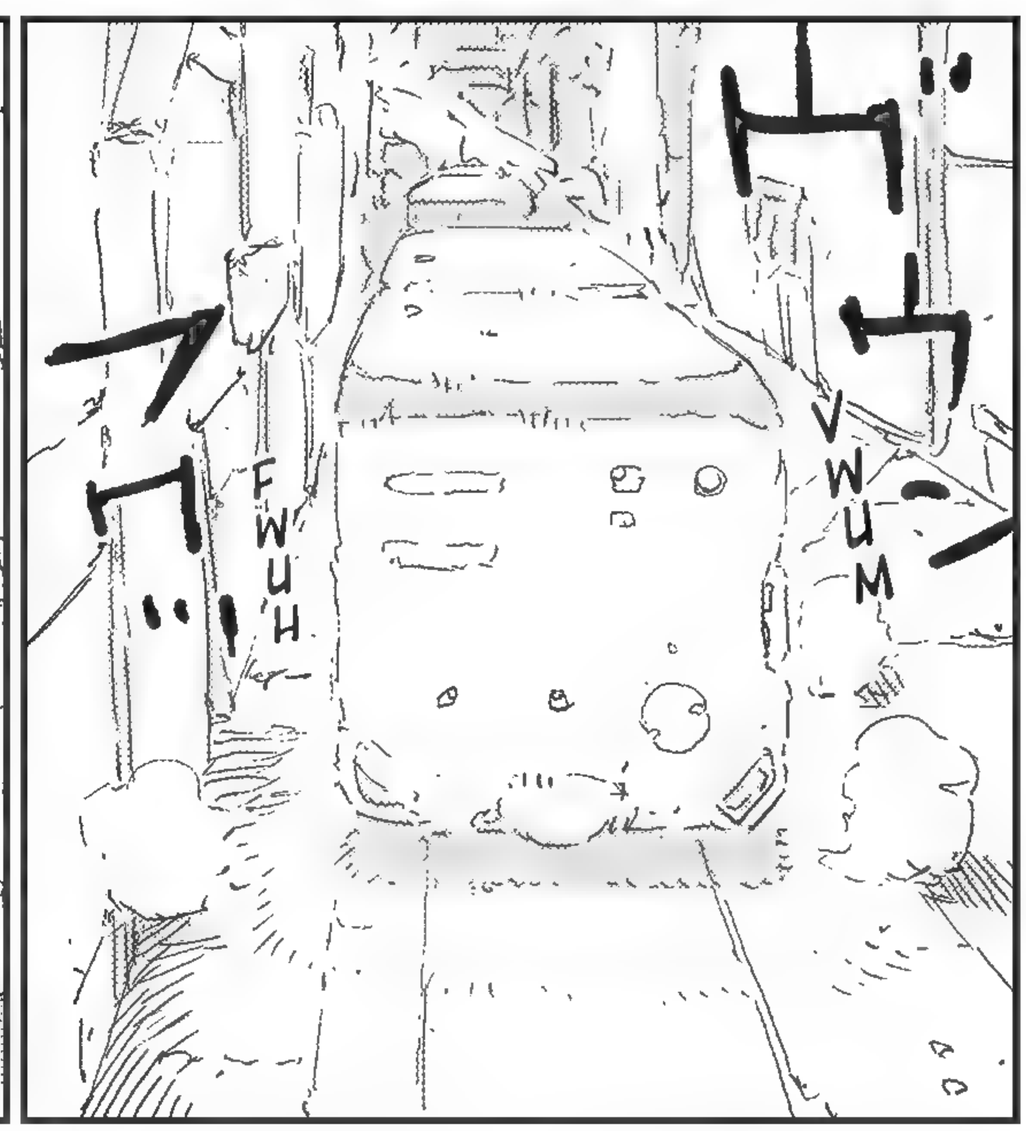
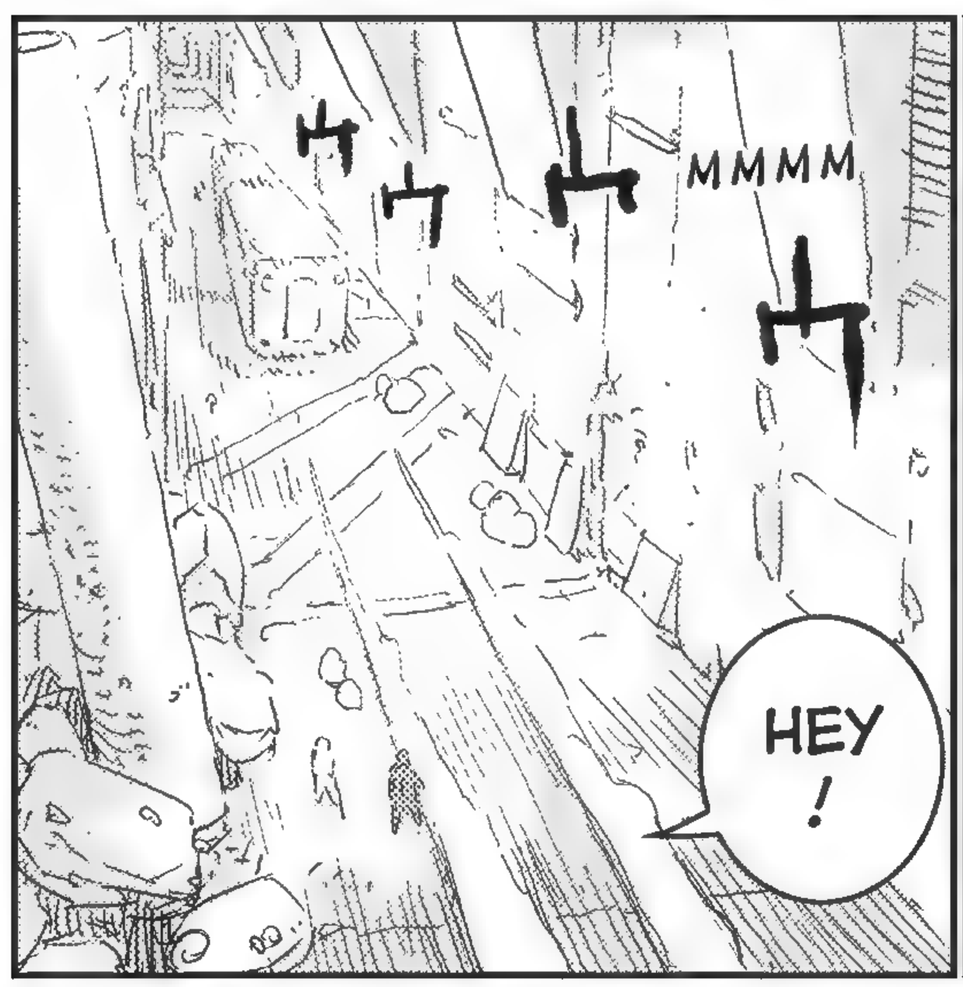
ズーン
ZMM
KREAK

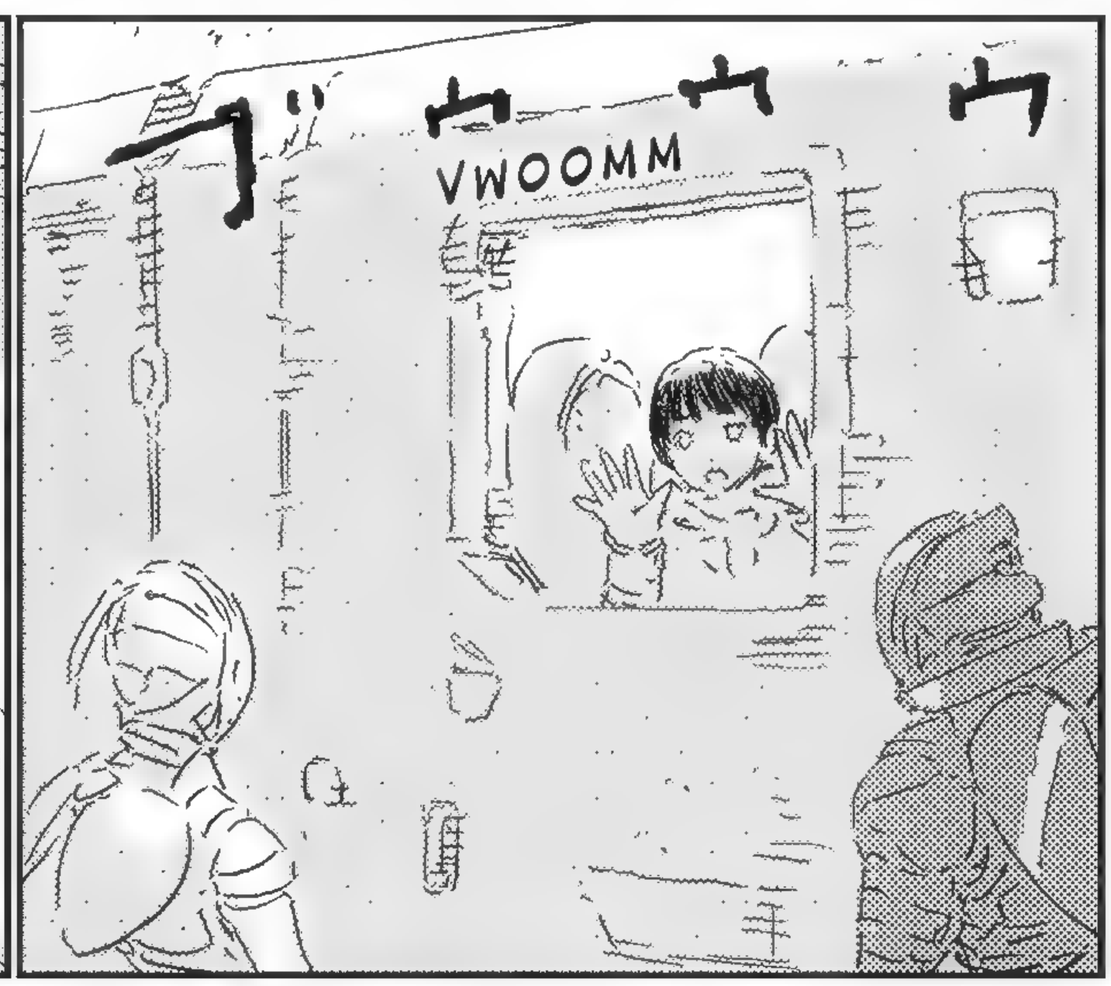


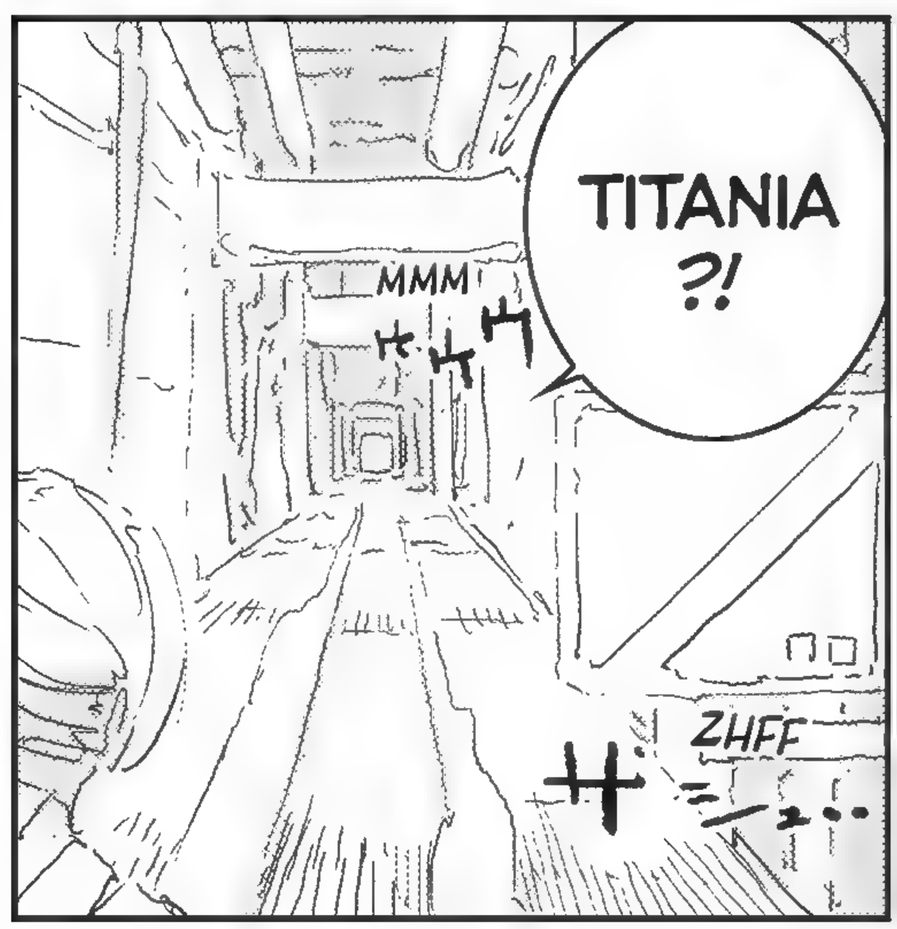
ゴーン
GONG
ズ…
CHFF
IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH NOW.

WHOOOOM
IT'S RUNNING !

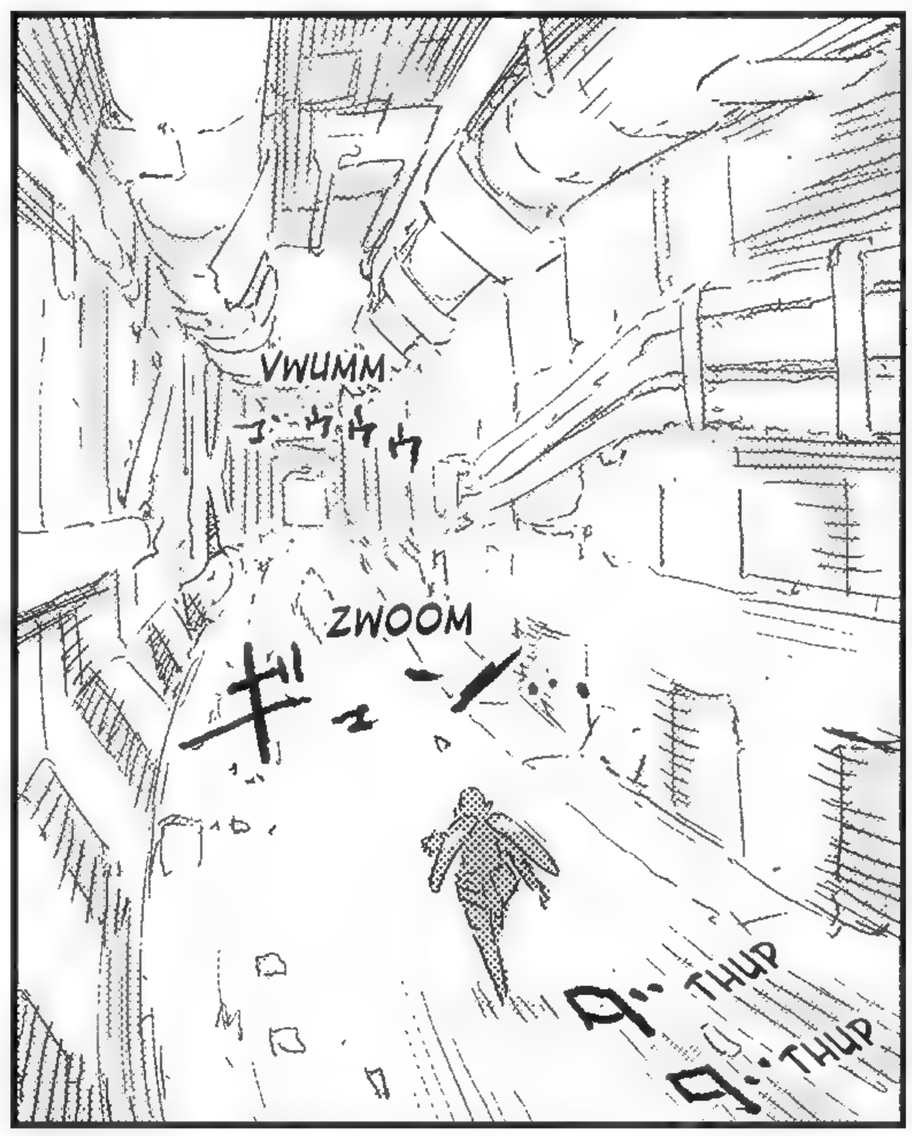

FWUH
VWUM

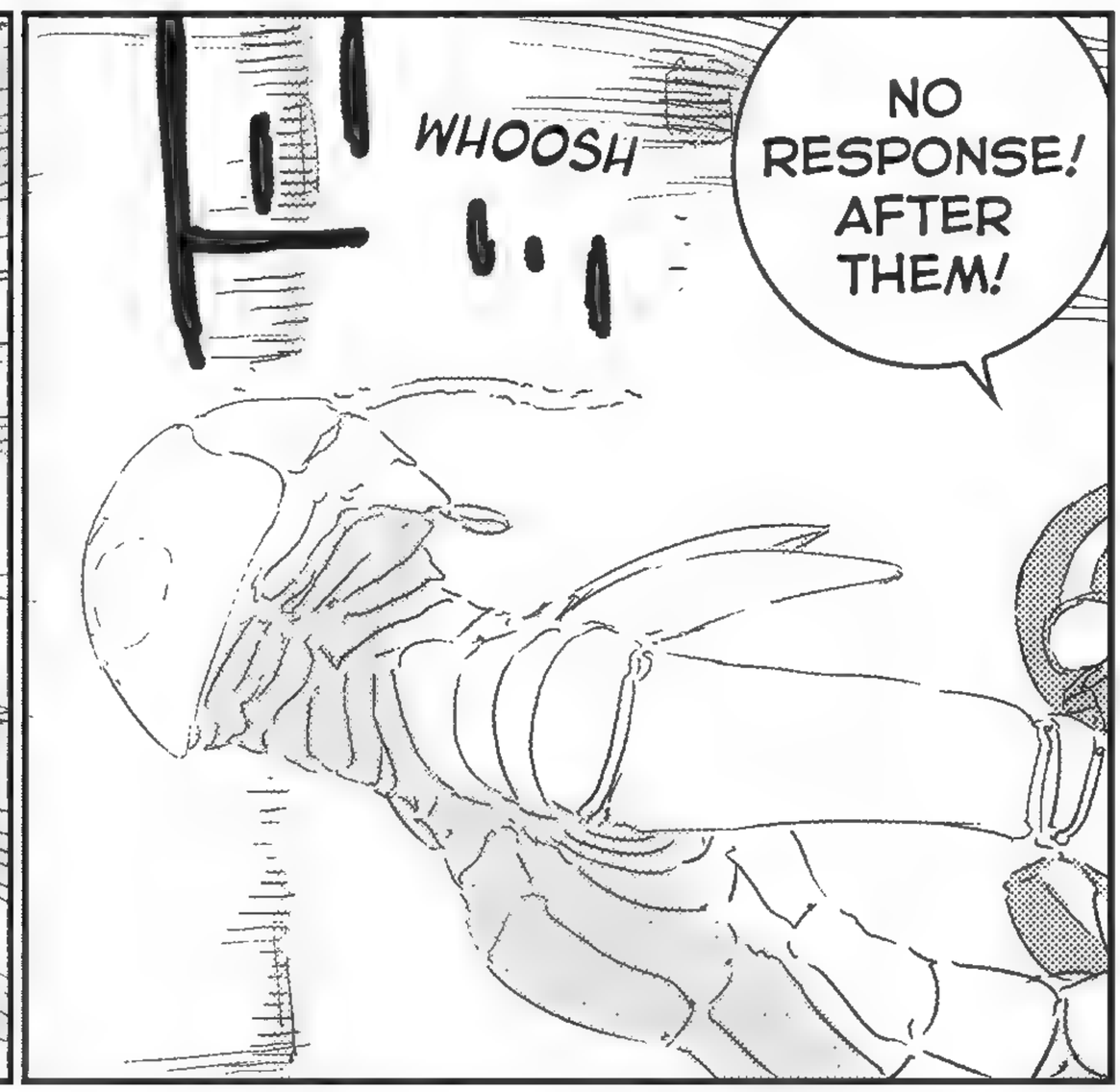

MMMM
HEY !

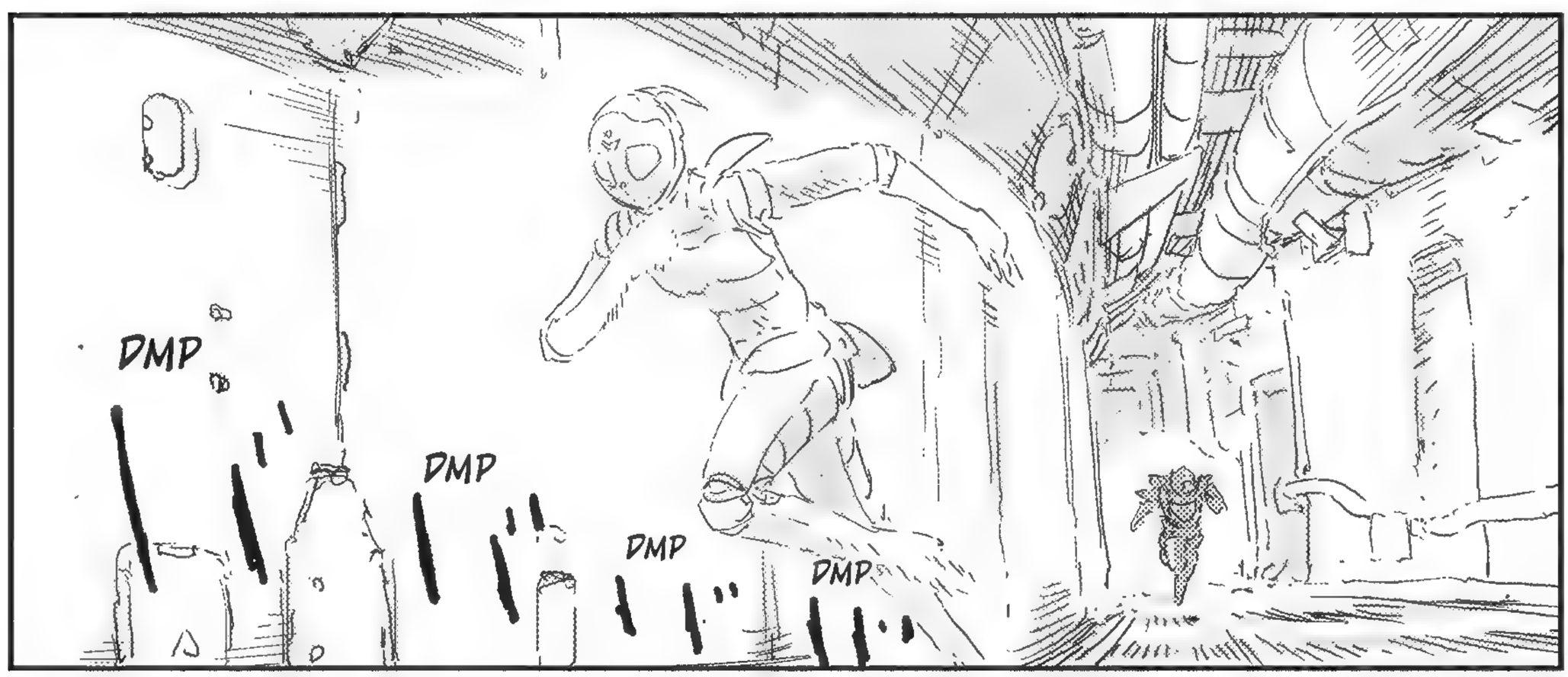

VWOOMM

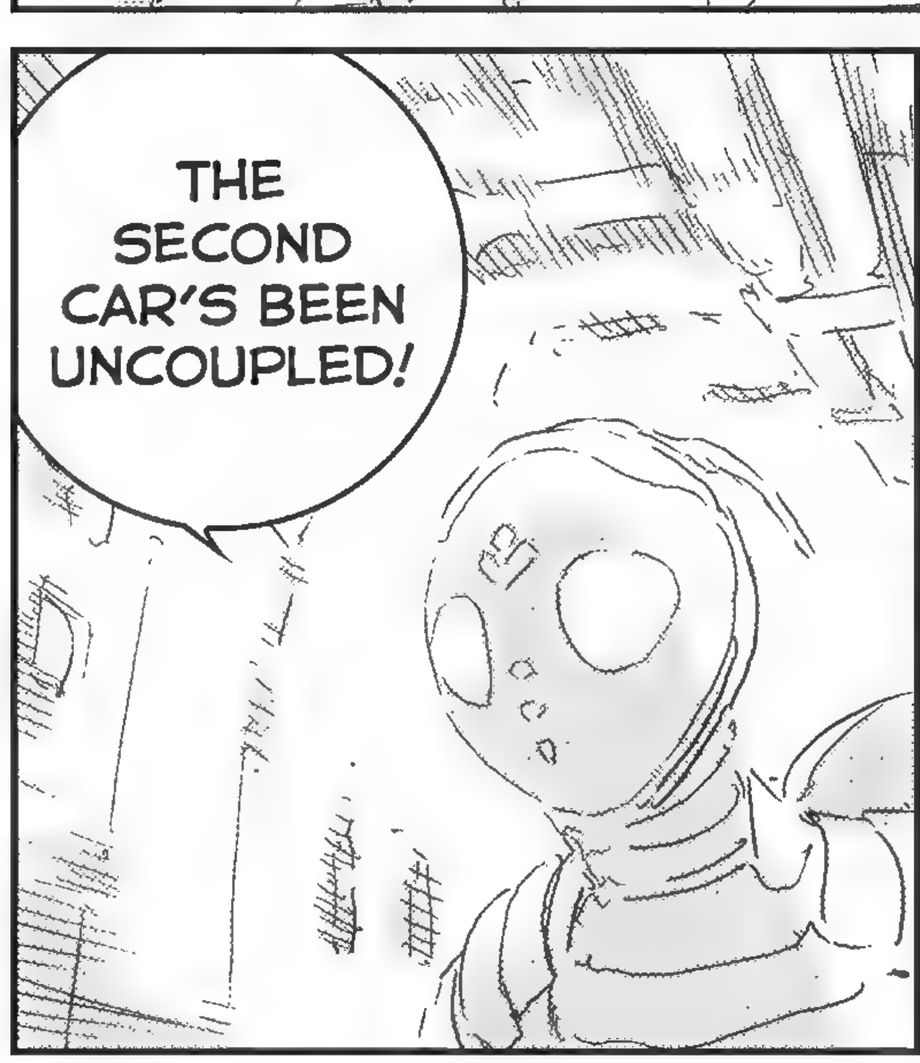

MMM
TITANIA ?!
ZHFF

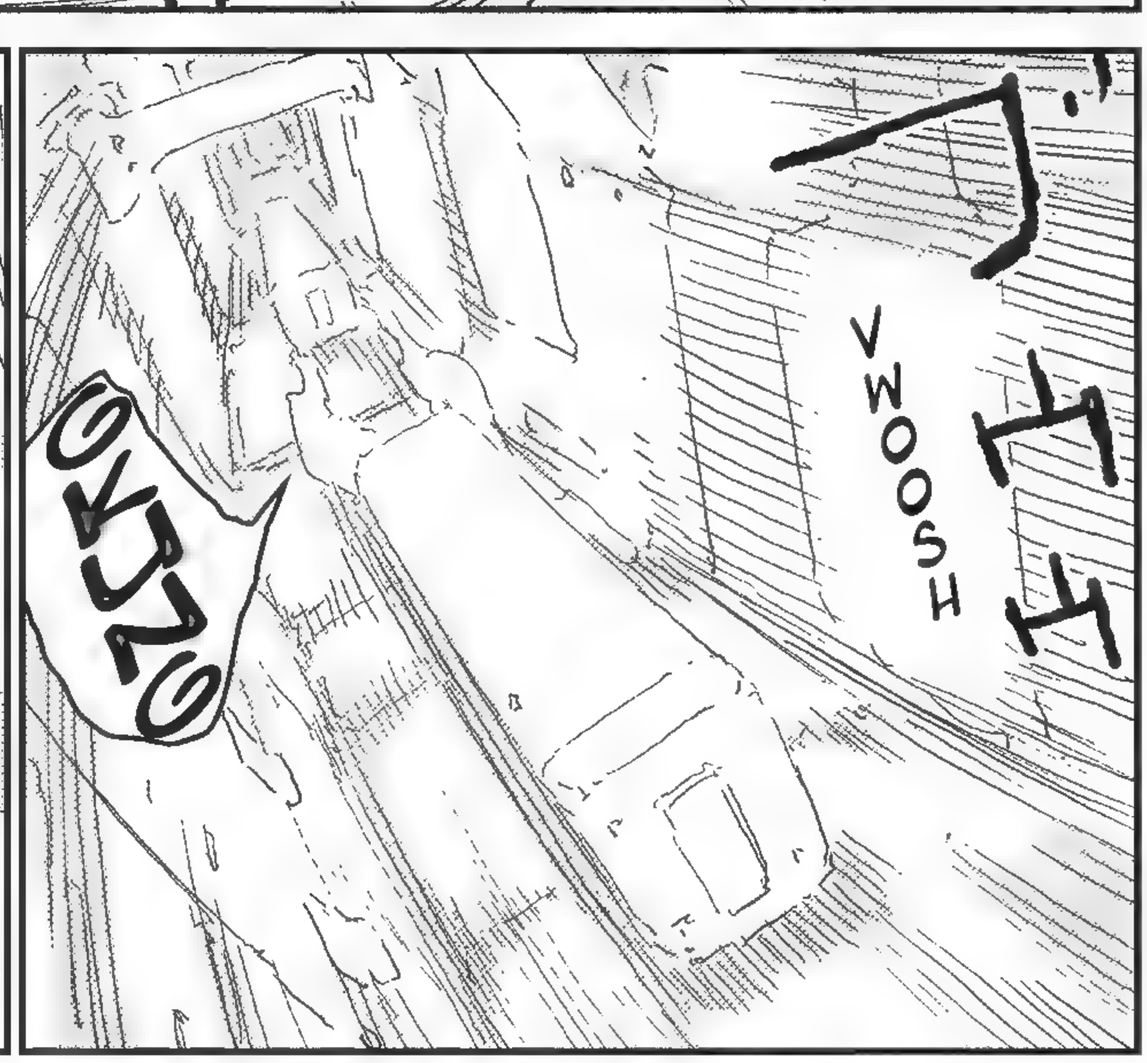
WAIT. WHAT JUST HAPPENED ?


VWUMM
ZWOOM
THUP
THUP

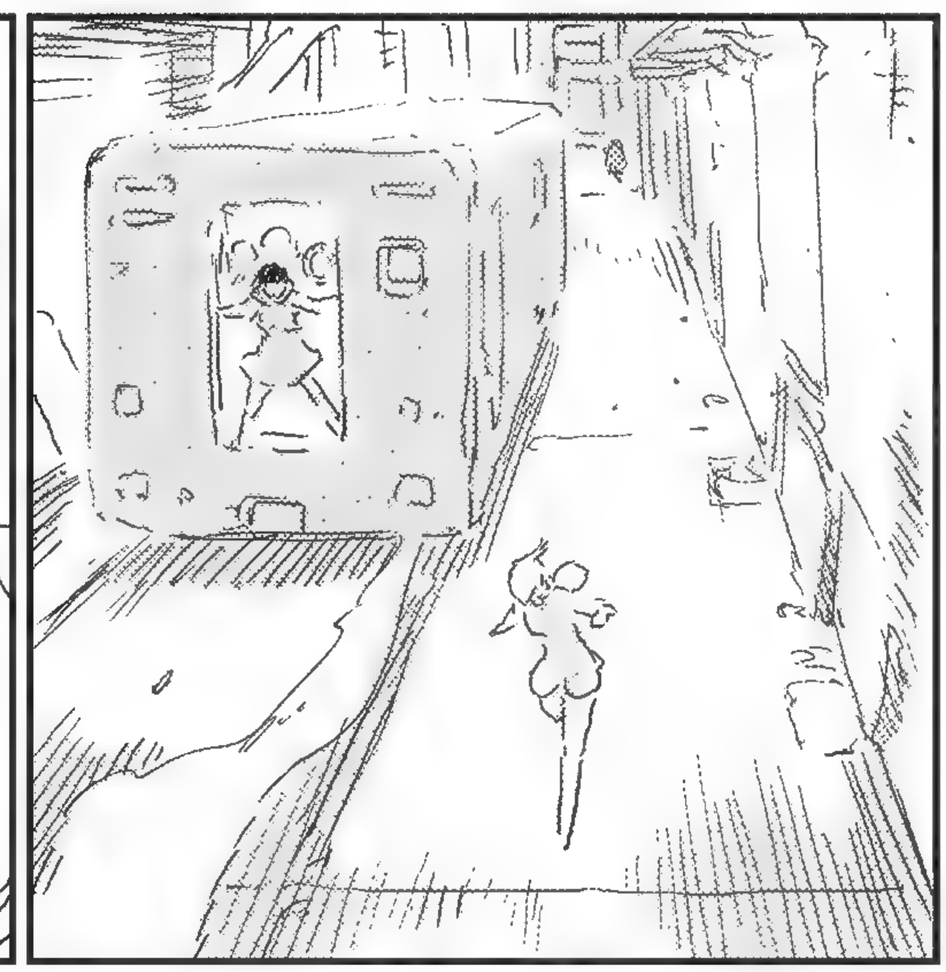

WHOOSH
NO RESPONSE! AFTER THEM!


DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP

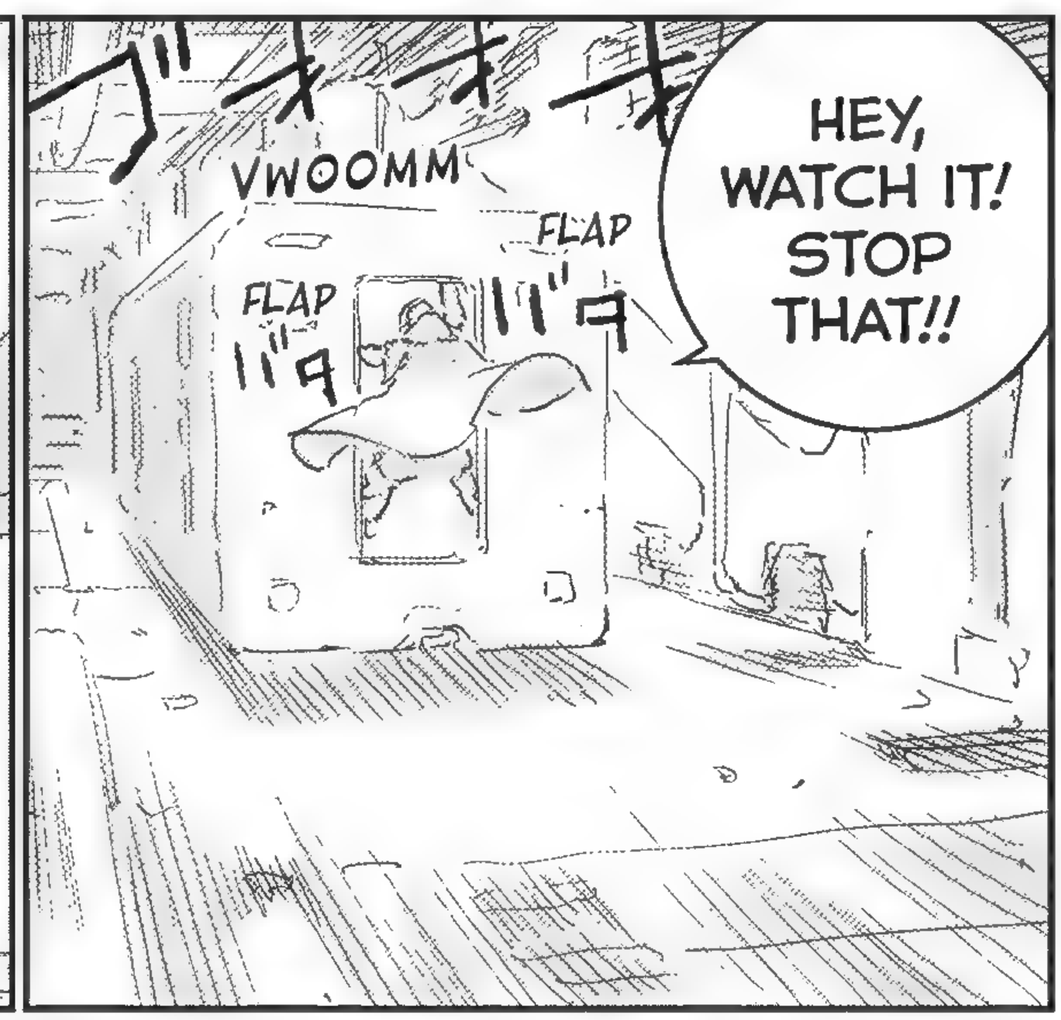

THE SECOND CAR'S BEEN UNCOUPLED!


OKAY
VWOOSH

KEISHA! IT'S TITANIA! KING KAJIWAN AND YUZO, THEY—



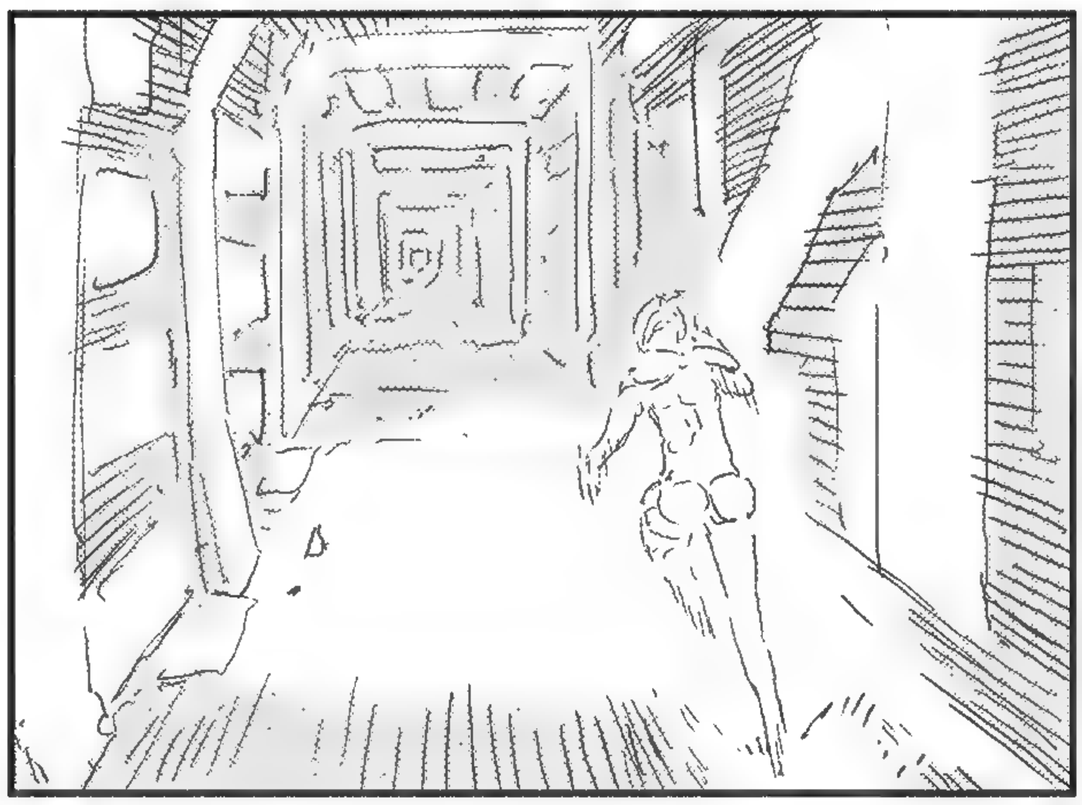
SORRY.
KICK

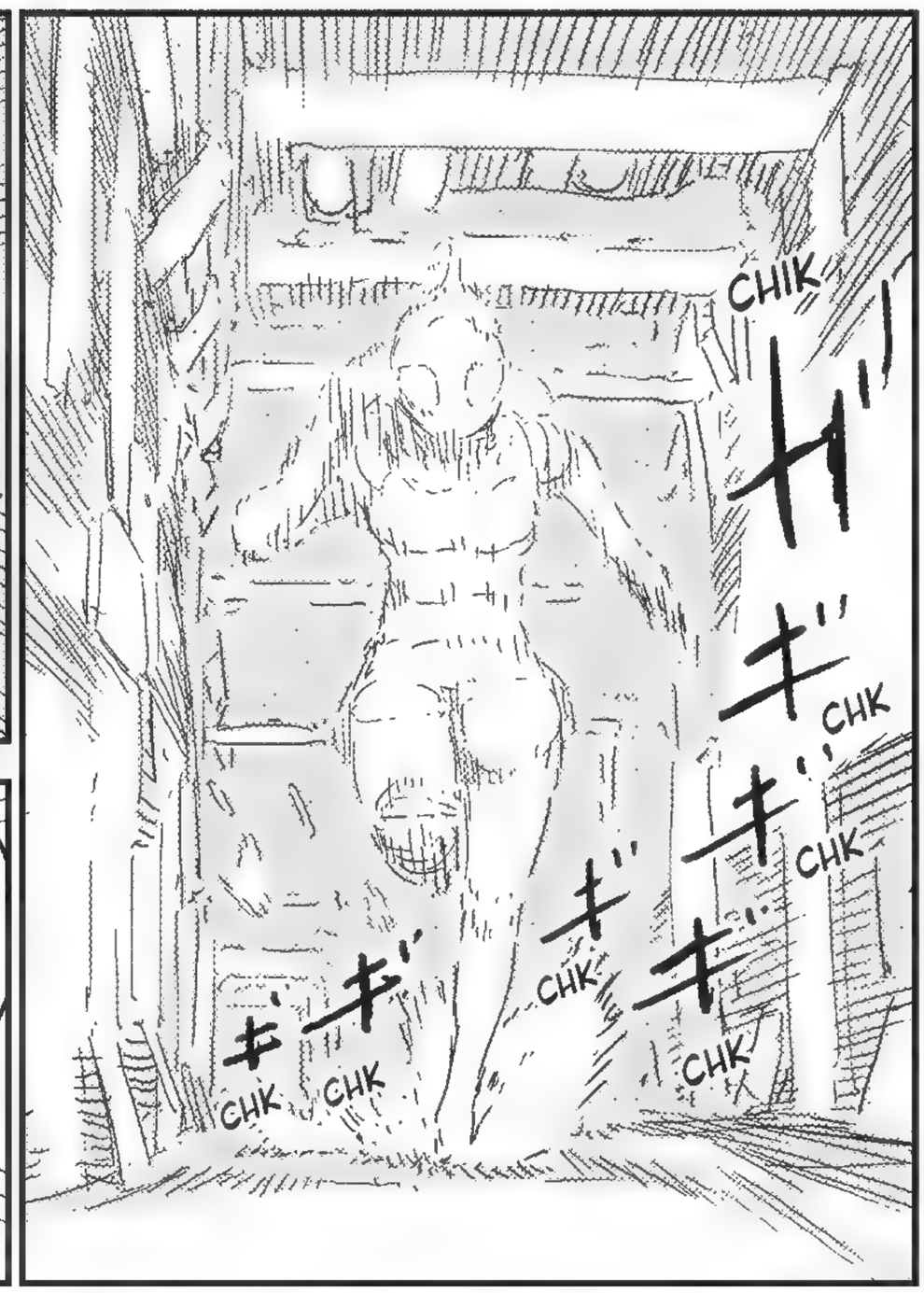

VWOOMM
FLAP
FLAP
HEY, WATCH IT! STOP THAT!!

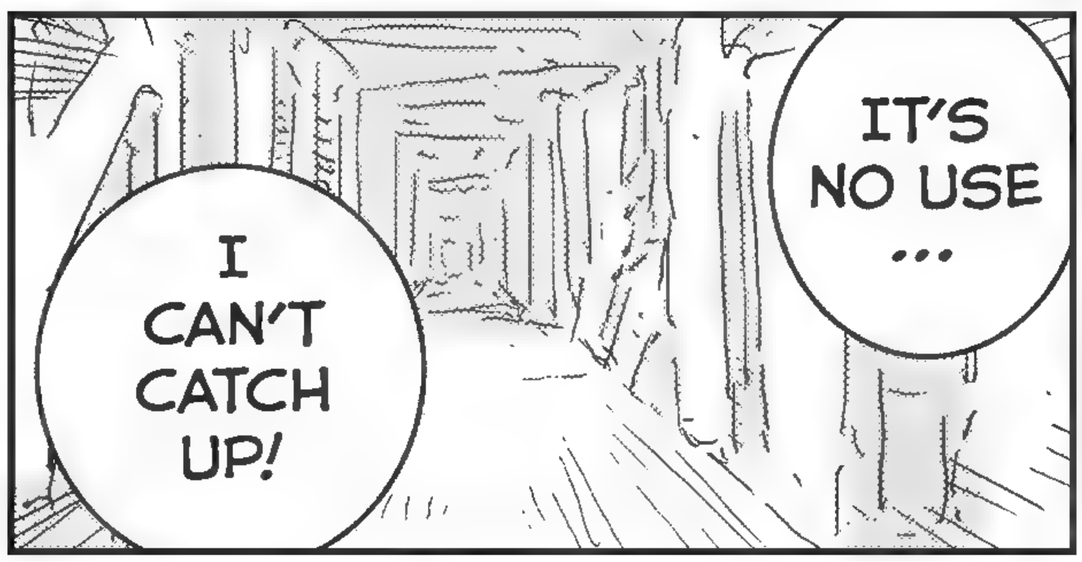
FORGET ABOUT ME! AFTER THEM!

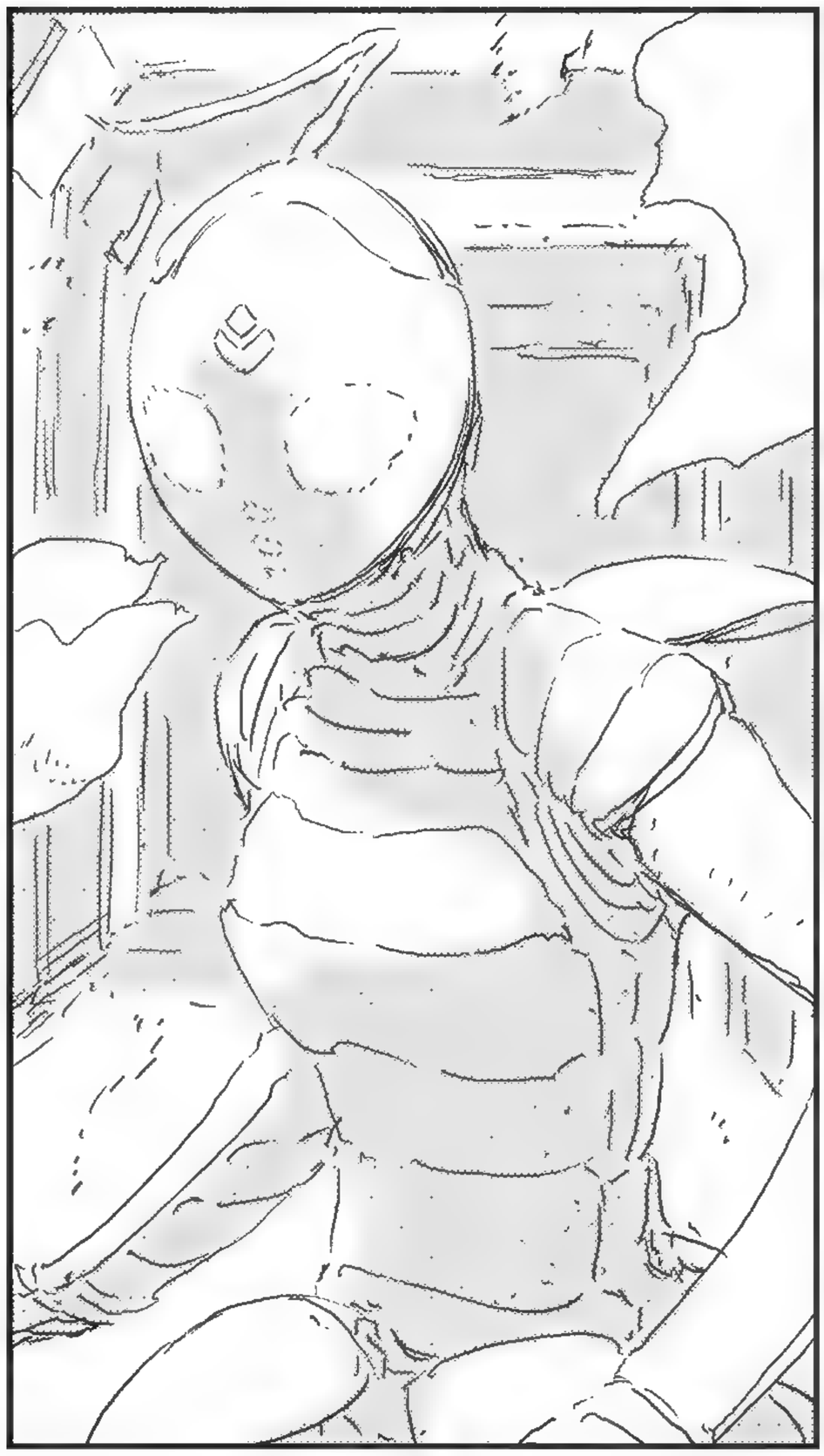
OTA!

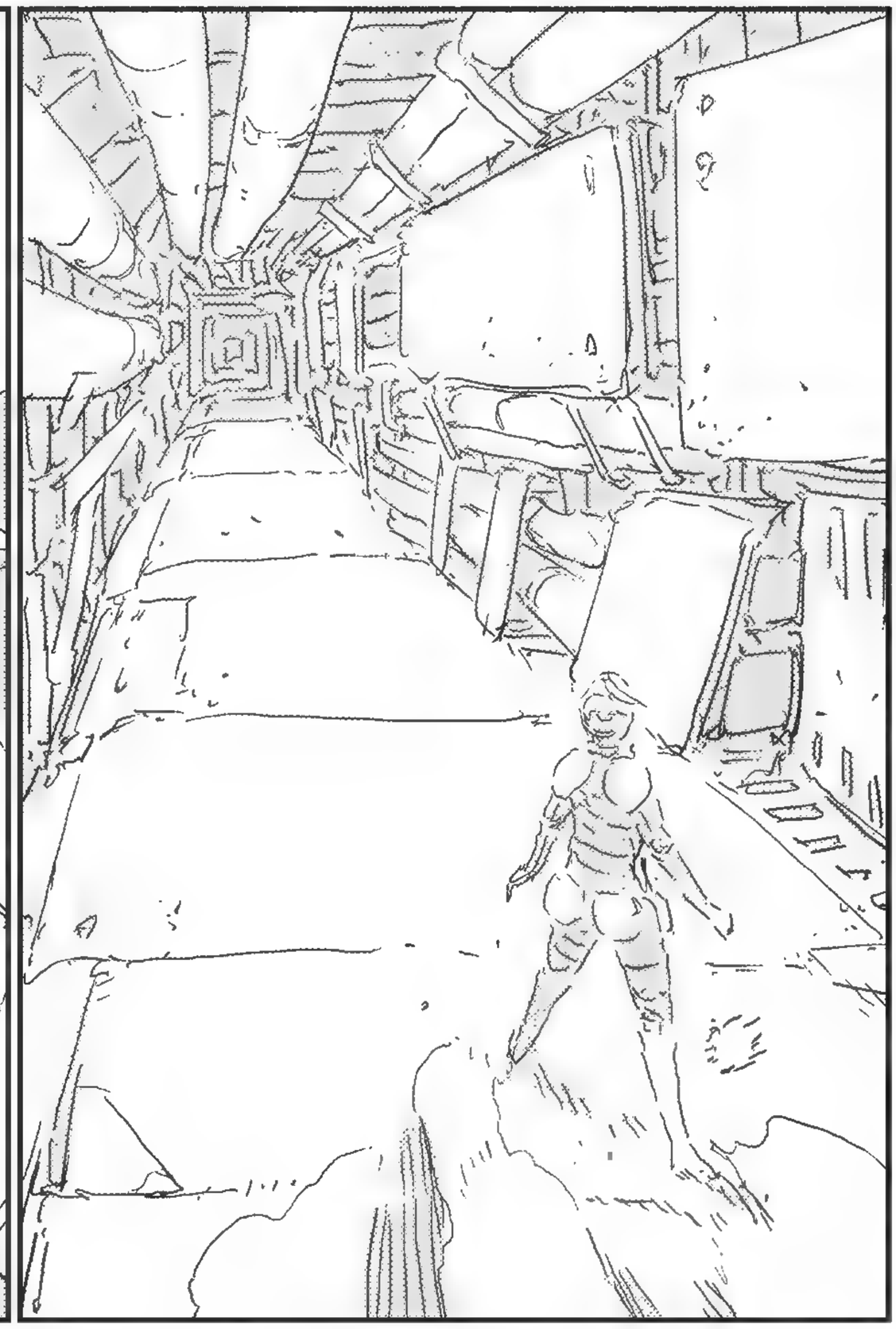
WHUMF

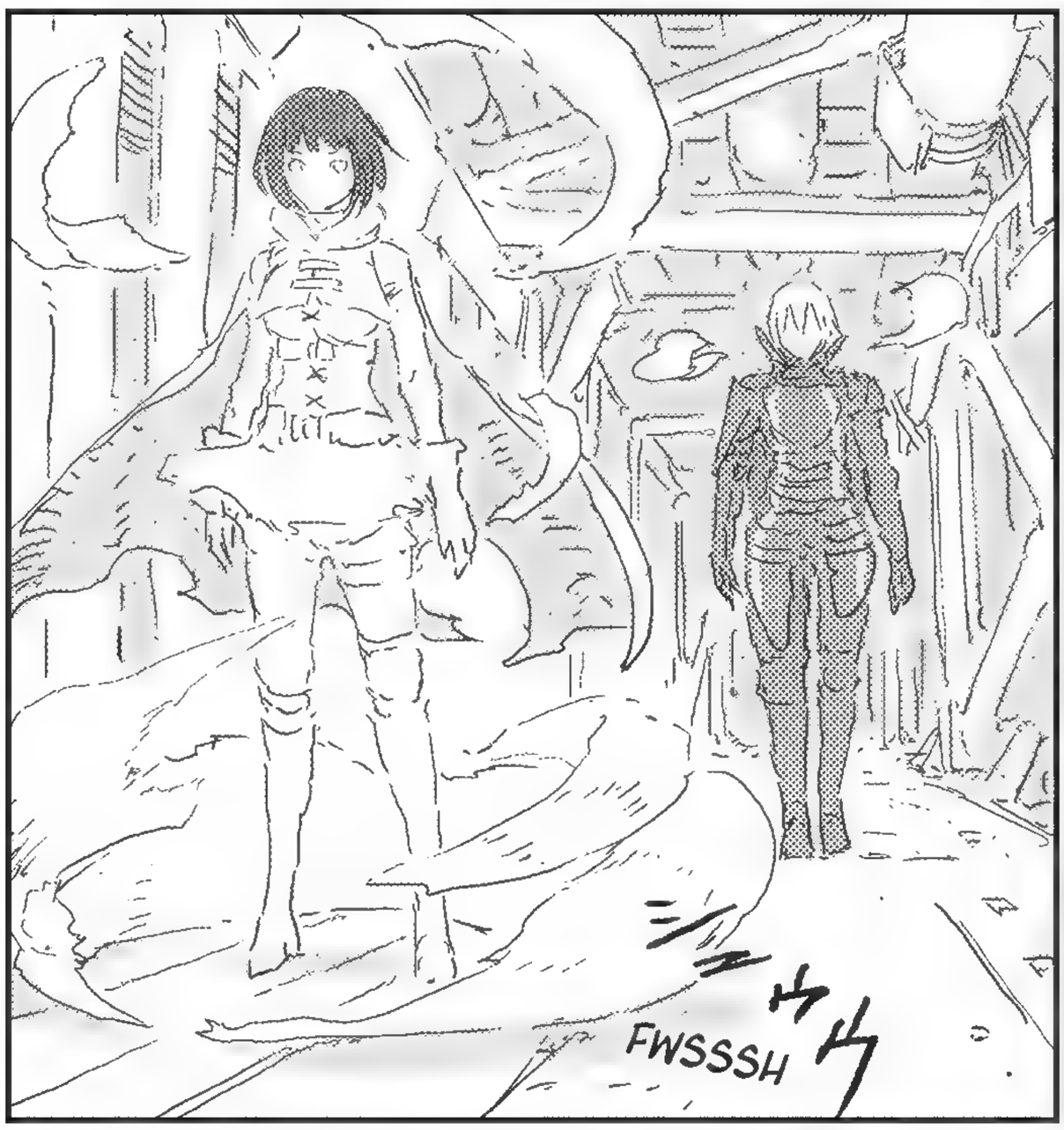


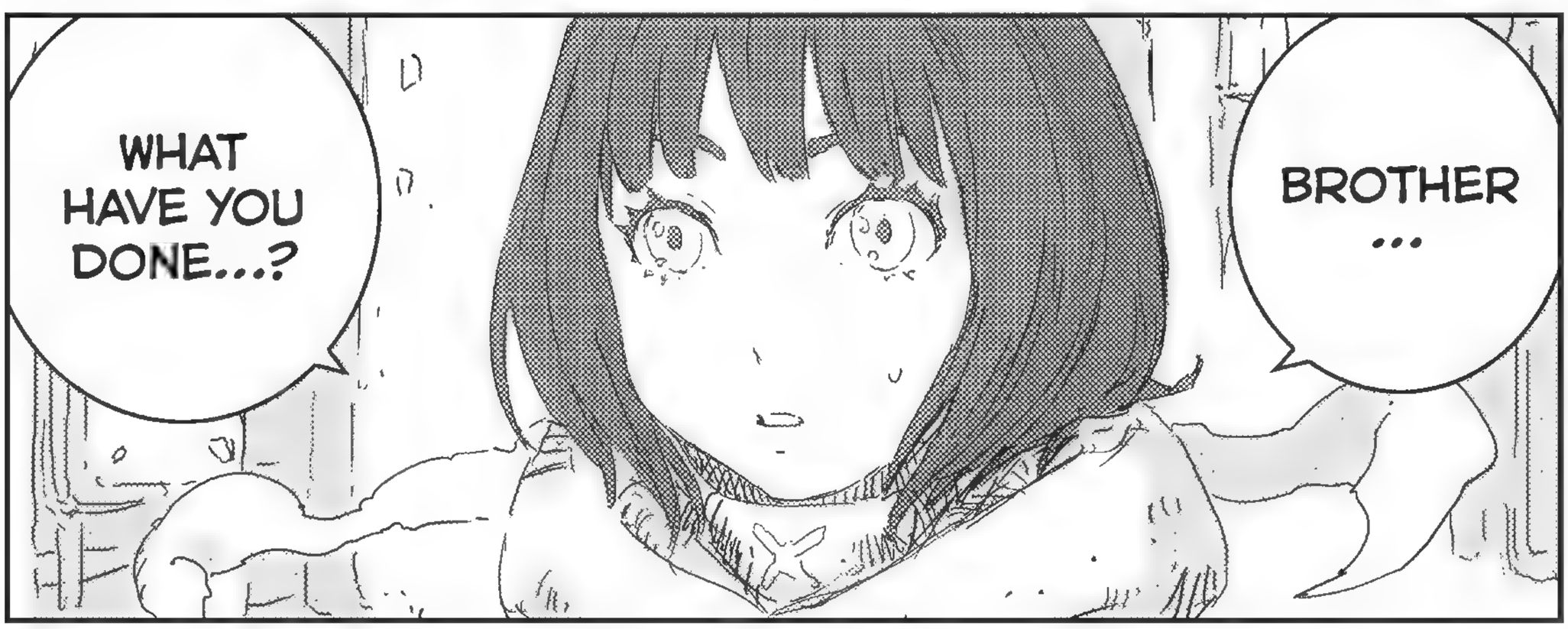

CHIK
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK


IT'S NO USE ...
I CAN'T CATCH UP!

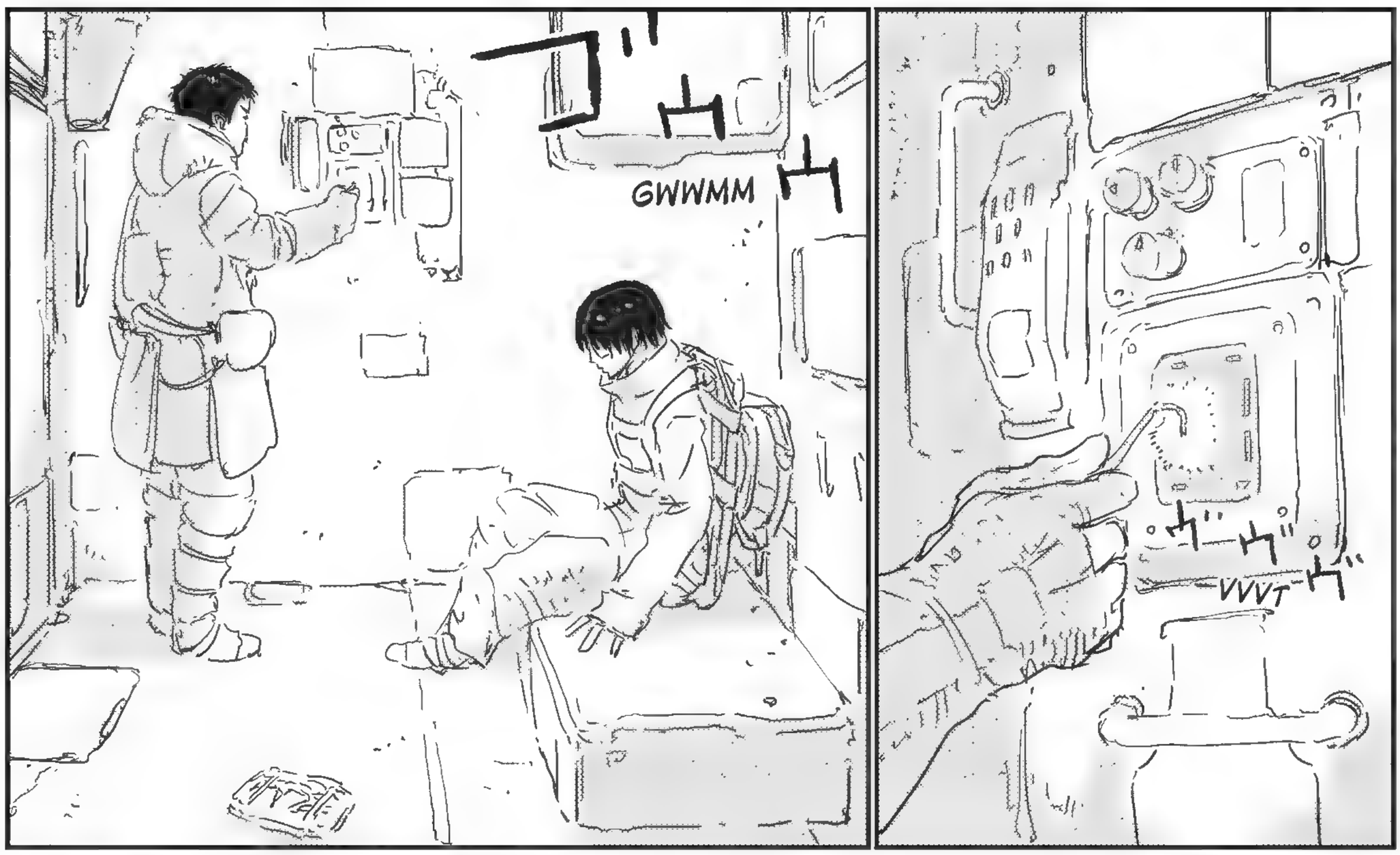


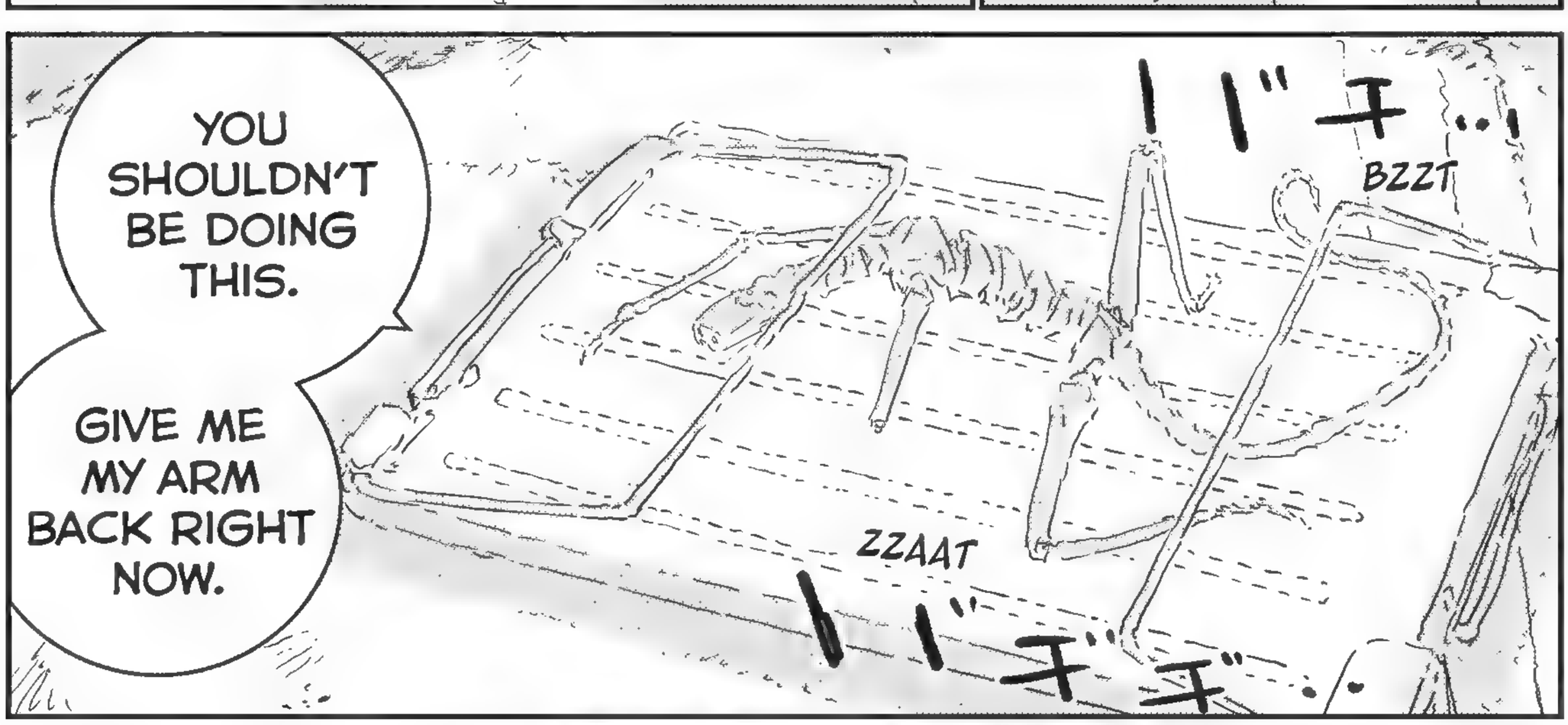


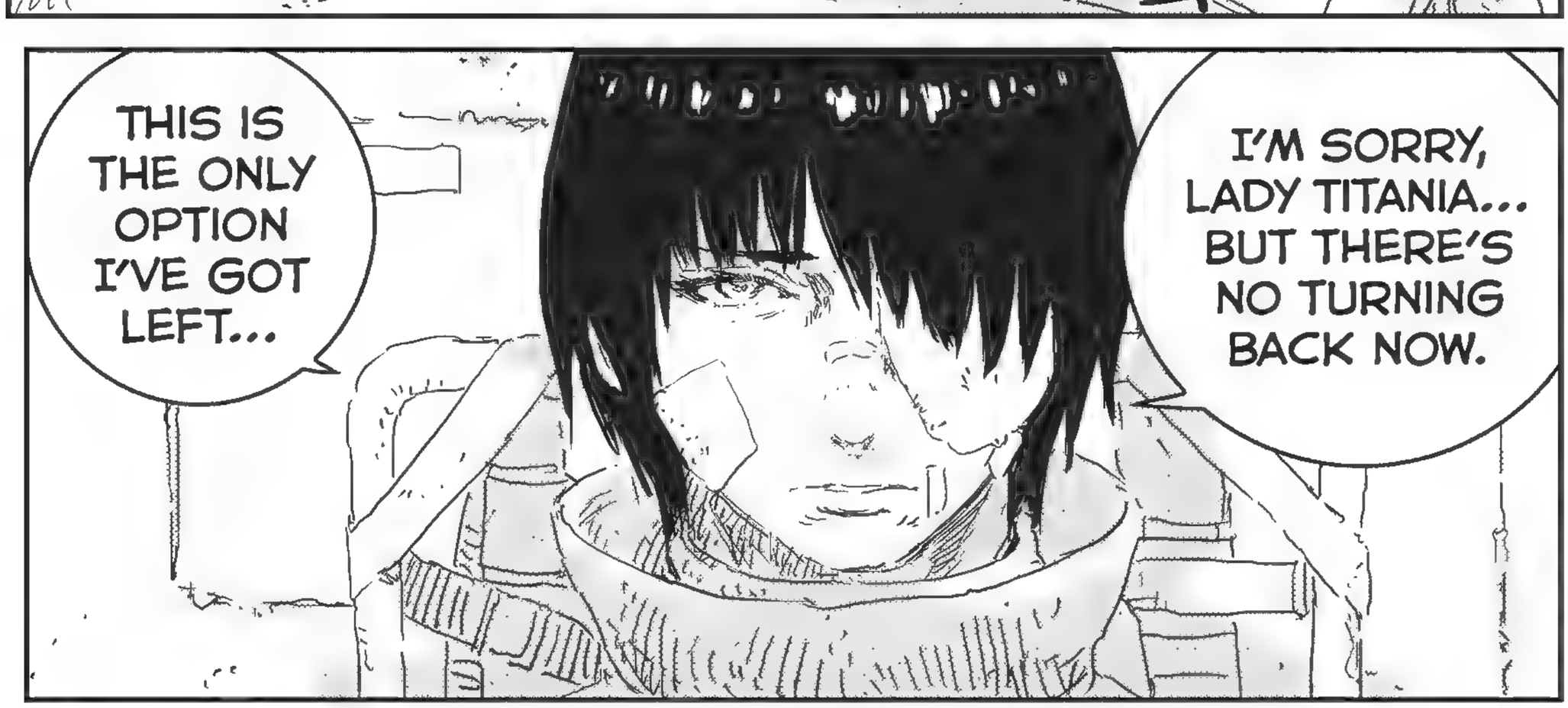

FWSSSH

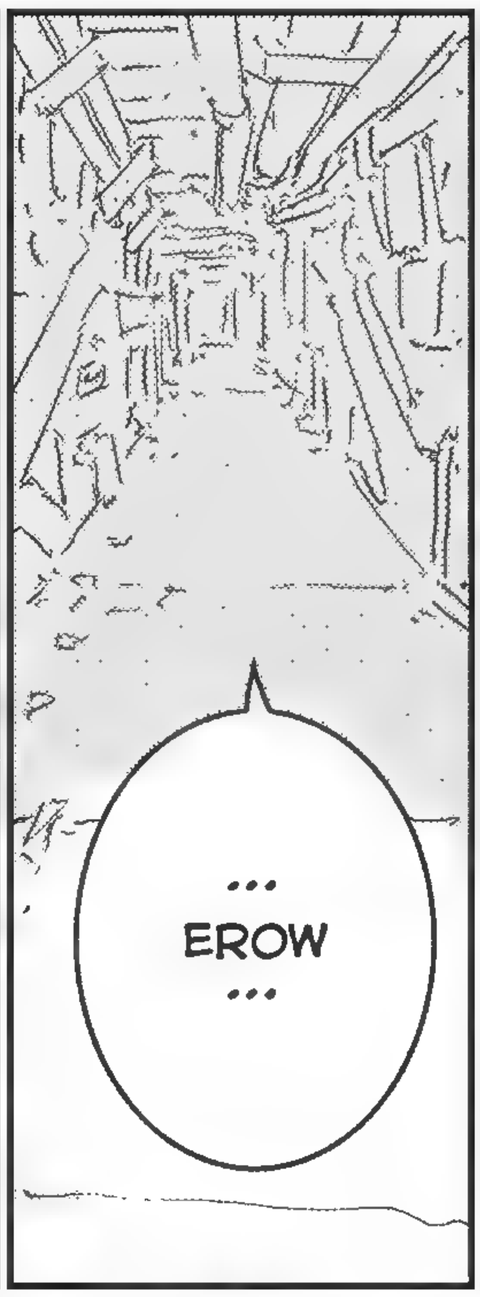

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...?
BROTHER ...

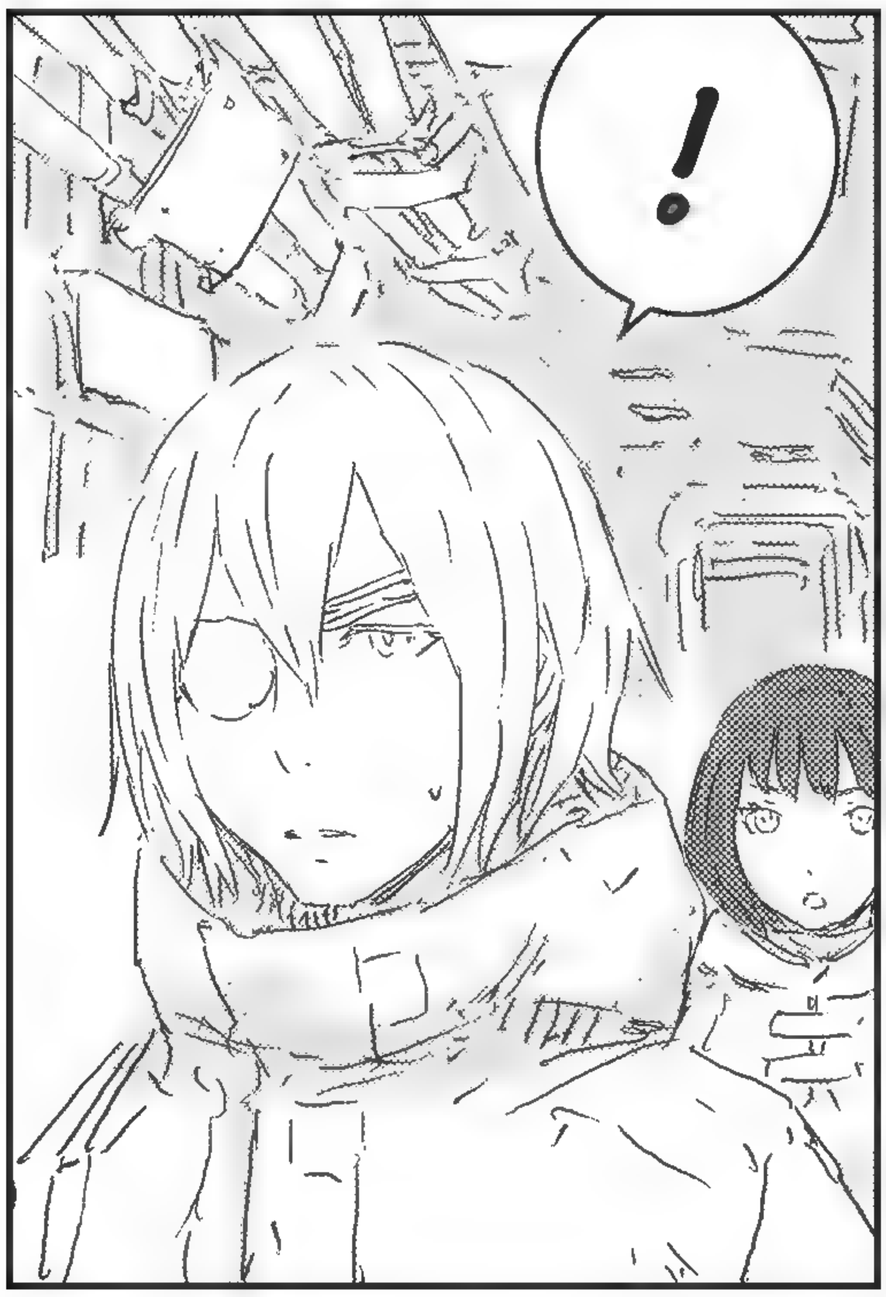
GWSSSSH


GWWMM
VVVT


YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS.
GIVE ME MY ARM BACK RIGHT NOW.
BZZT
ZZAAT


THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION I'VE GOT LEFT...
I'M SORRY, LADY TITANIA... BUT THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW.


...
EROW
...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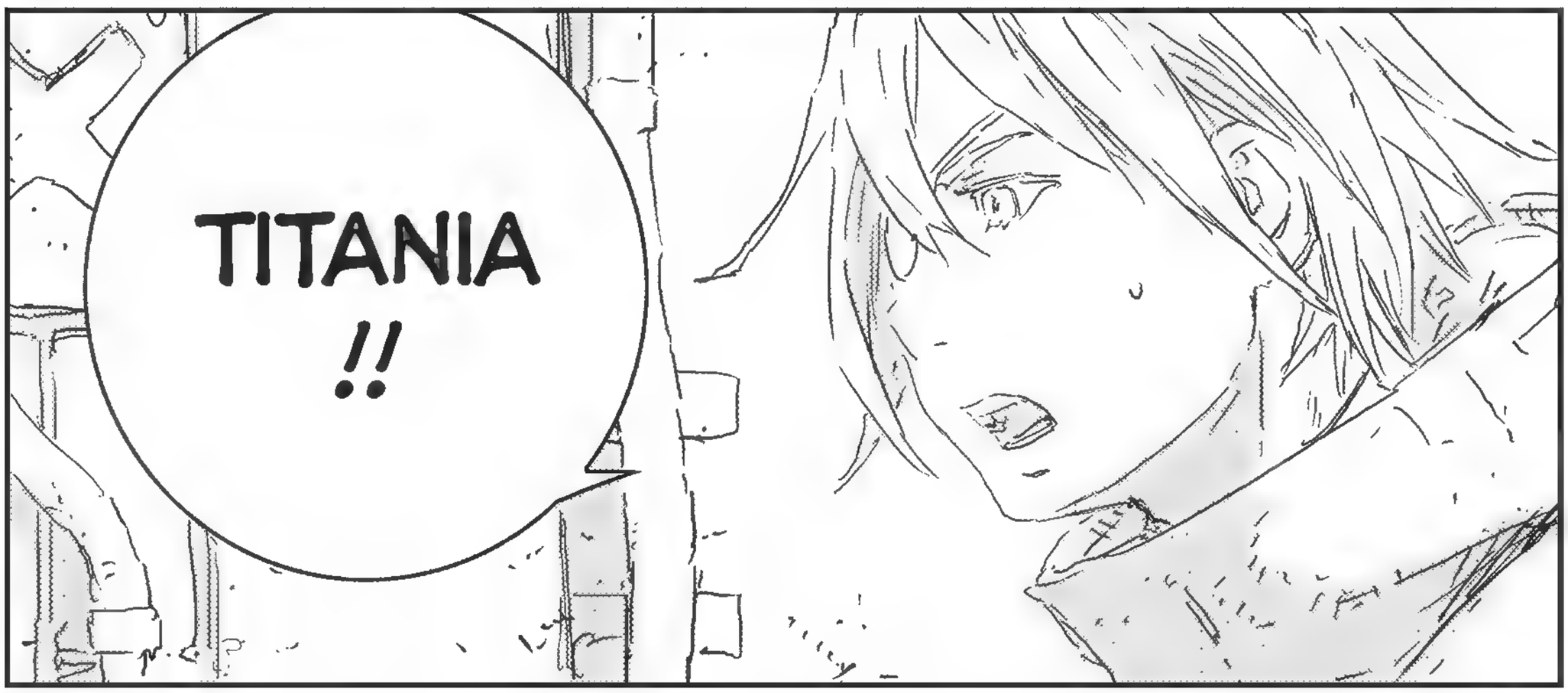

TITANIA
!!

PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE.

I'M SO SORRY.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE UP FOR THIS ...

BUT IF THEY USE IT FOR ILL, IT WILL MEAN TROUBLE.

SO I'M FINE.

I'LL GROW A NEW ONE BEFORE TOO LONG,

VARIOUS THINGS, SUCH AS RUNNING TRACK CARS AND OPENING FACILITY DOORS.

THEY'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF THE EQUIPMENT INSIDE THE RUINS LEVEL TO A CERTAIN DEGREE...

CAN THEY DO SOMETHING IF THEY'VE GOT YOUR LEFT HAND?

THE GOSABYO ...

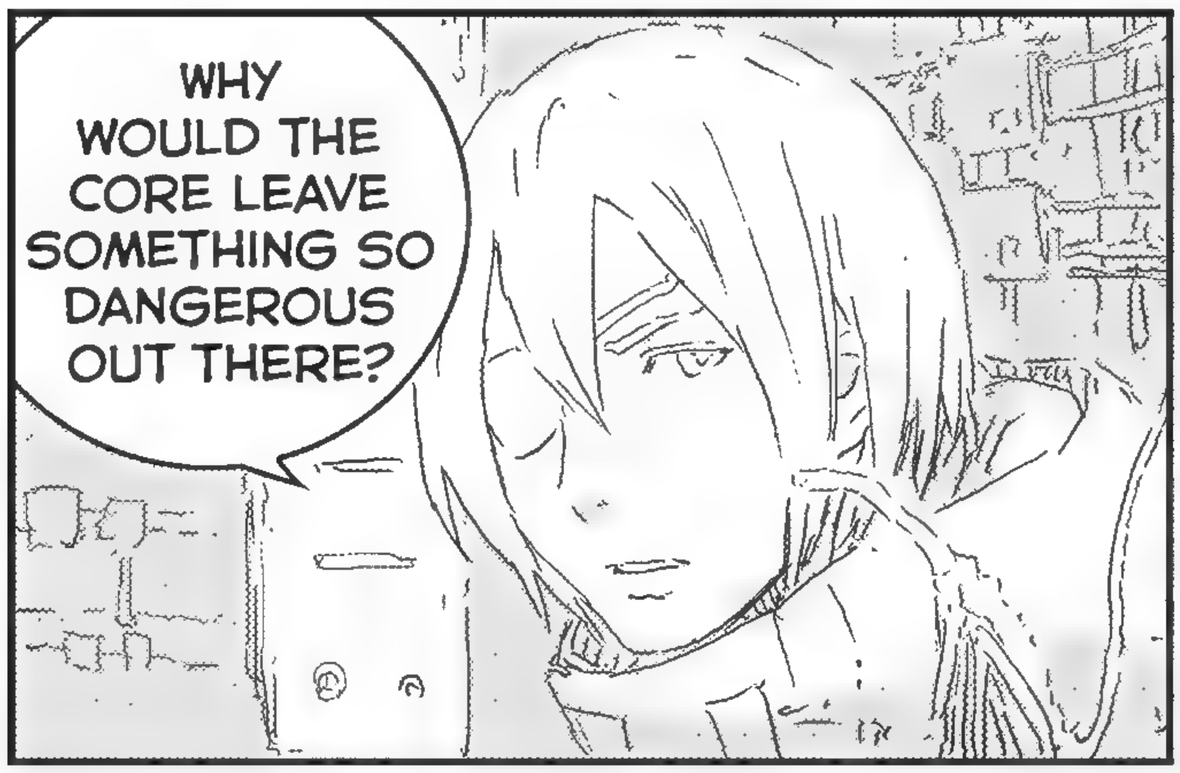
JUST WHAT THE HECK IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
KING KAJIWAN ...

HEY, OTA, PLEASE DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT...

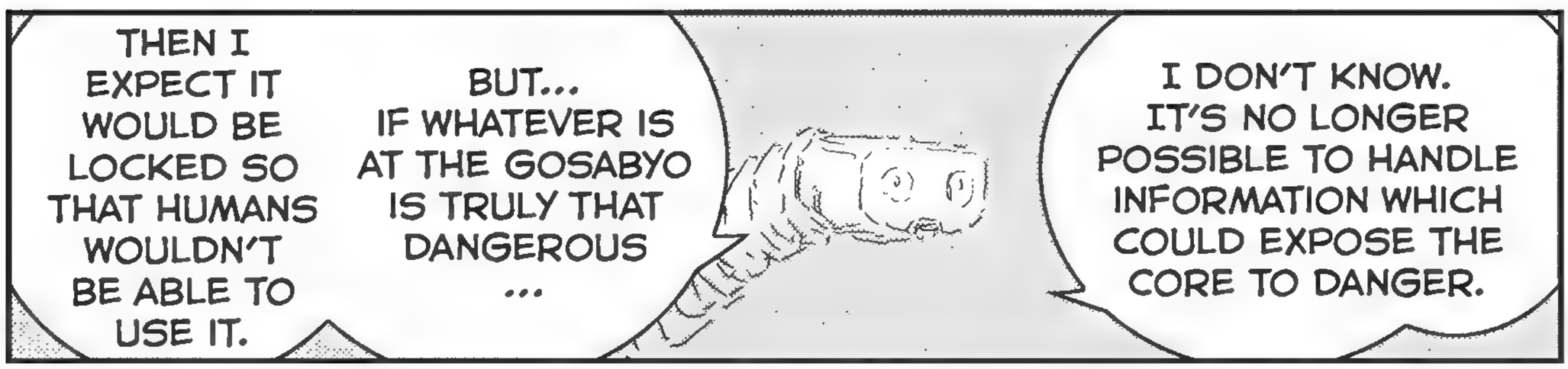
KEISHA! THAT IS A WORD THAT MUST NEVER BE SPOKEN!
WHOA!

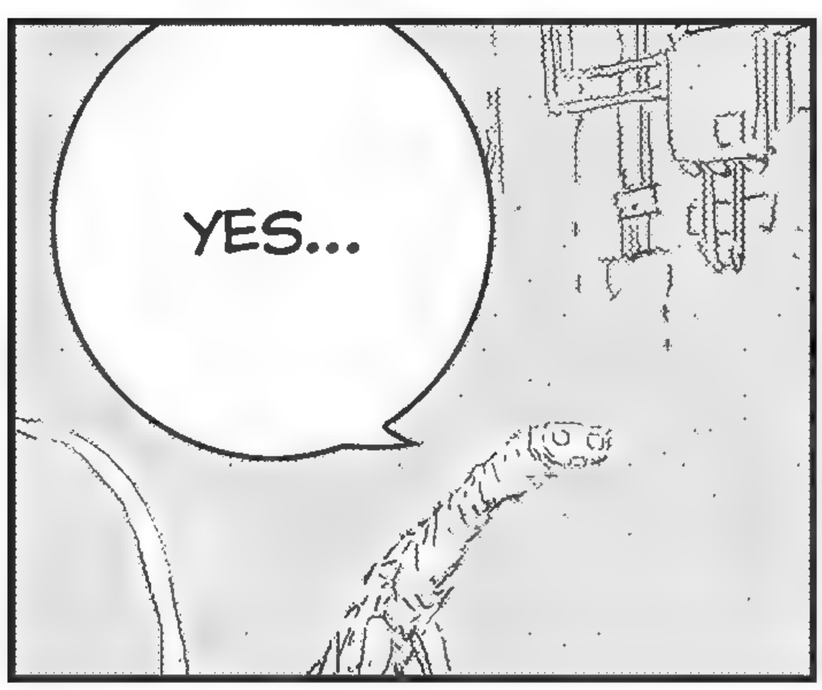
ONLY THOSE IN THE LINE OF KINGS HAVE BEEN TOLD WHAT EXACTLY THAT SOMETHING IS.
IT'S THE LOCATION OF SOMETHING THAT CAUSED A GREAT MANY PEOPLE TO DIE A VERY LONG TIME AGO.

WHAT IS THIS GOSABYO ?


WHY WOULD THE CORE LEAVE SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS OUT THERE?

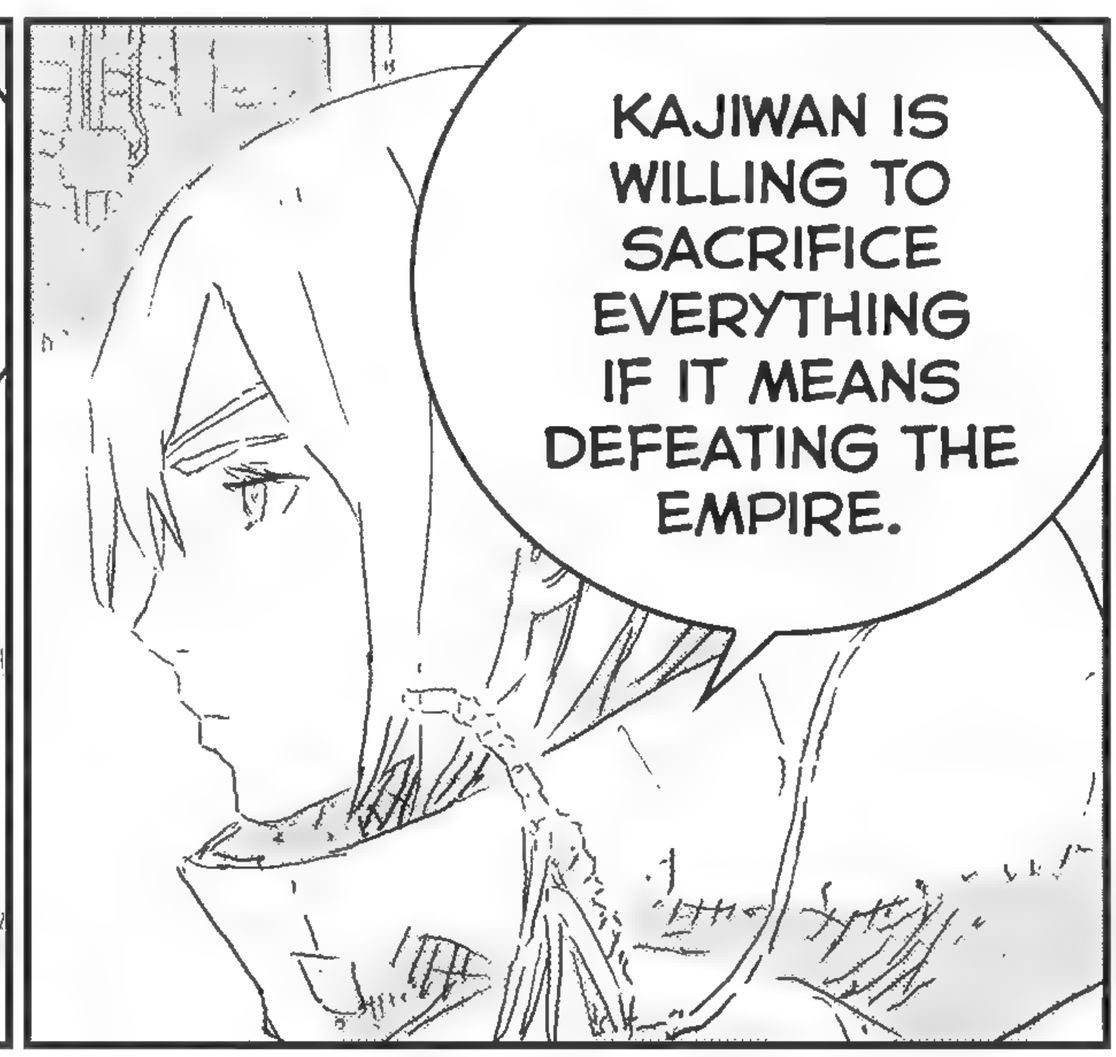
THEY SAY IT'S WHAT CAUSED THE SURFACE TO FREEZE OVER ...

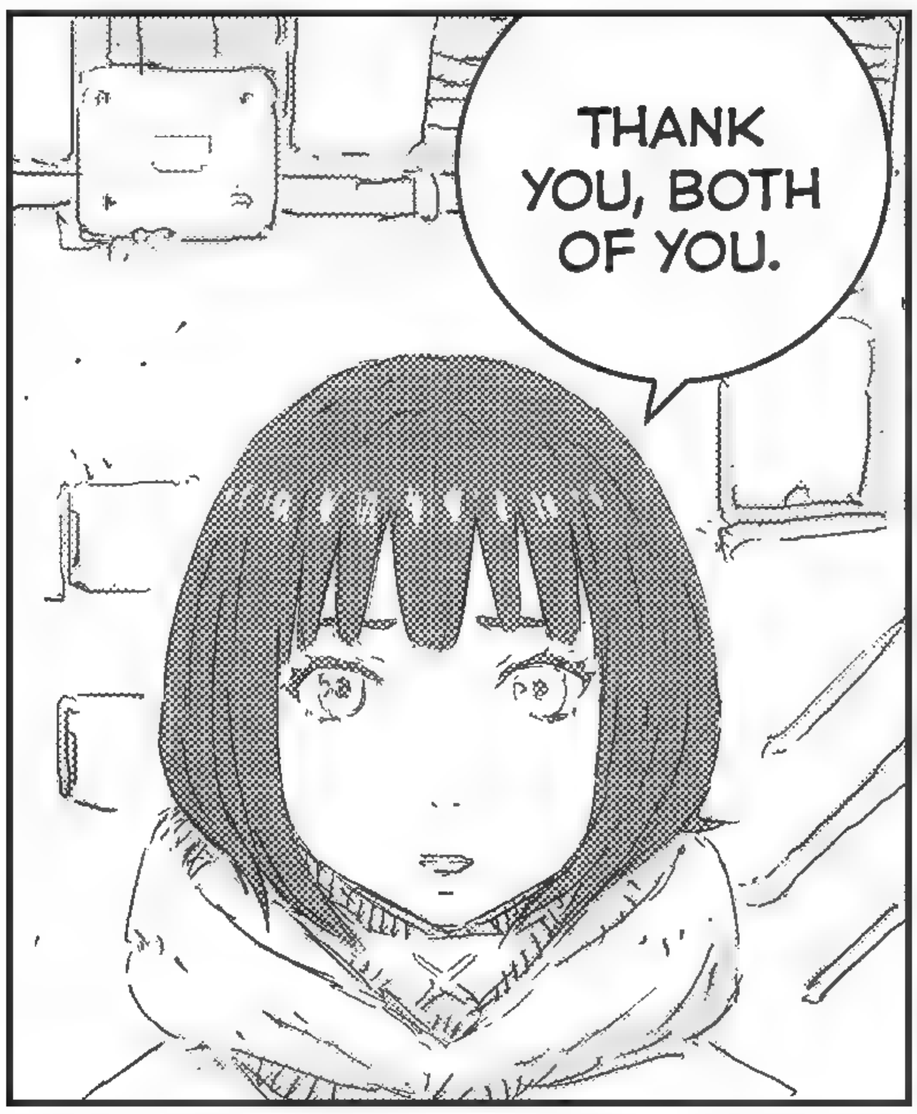

THEN I EXPECT IT WOULD BE LOCKED SO THAT HUMANS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO USE IT.
BUT... IF WHATEVER IS AT THE GOSABYO IS TRULY THAT DANGEROUS ...
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO HANDLE INFORMATION WHICH COULD EXPOSE THE CORE TO DANGER.


YES...

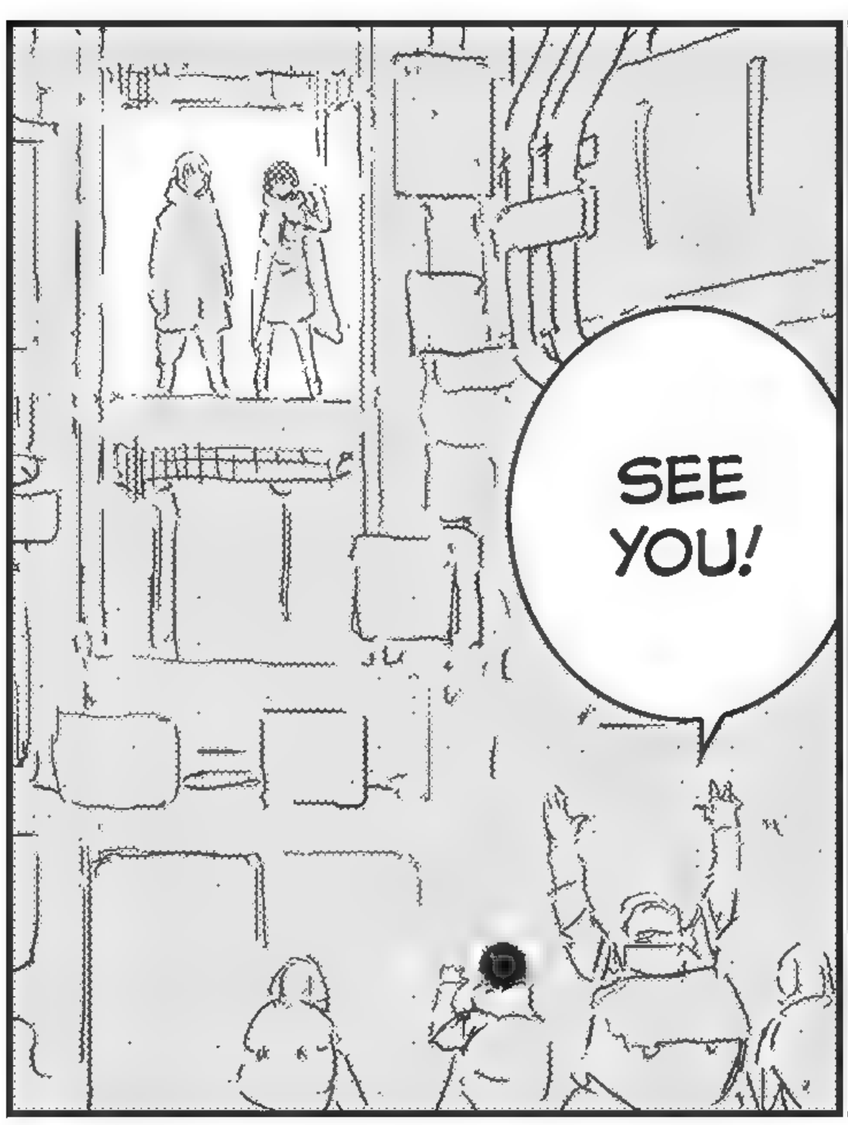
AND SO HE STOLE YOUR LEFT HAND.
KAJIWAN MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT,

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM LOOK SO SHATTERED.
IN HIS CURRENT STATE, I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM...

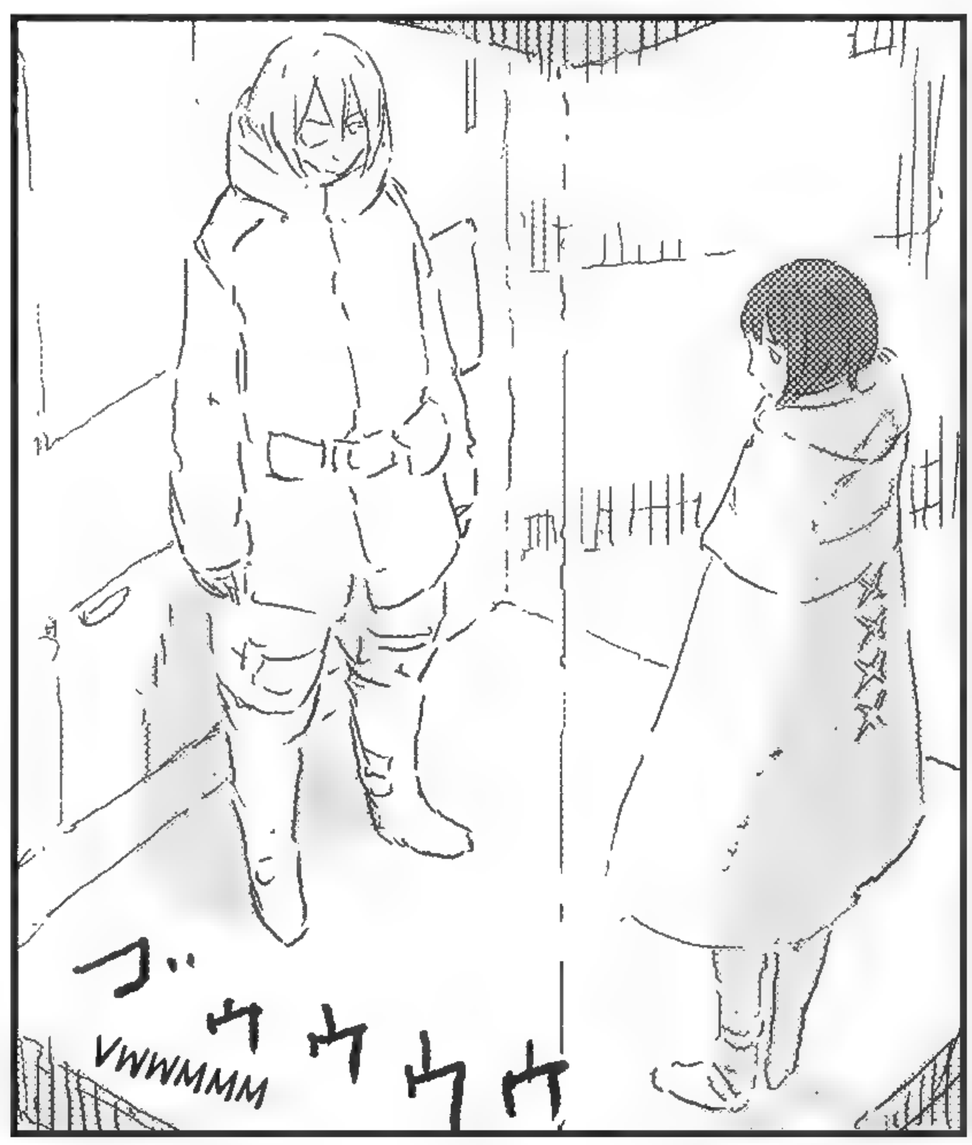

KAJIWAN IS WILLING TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING IF IT MEANS DEFEATING THE EMPIRE.

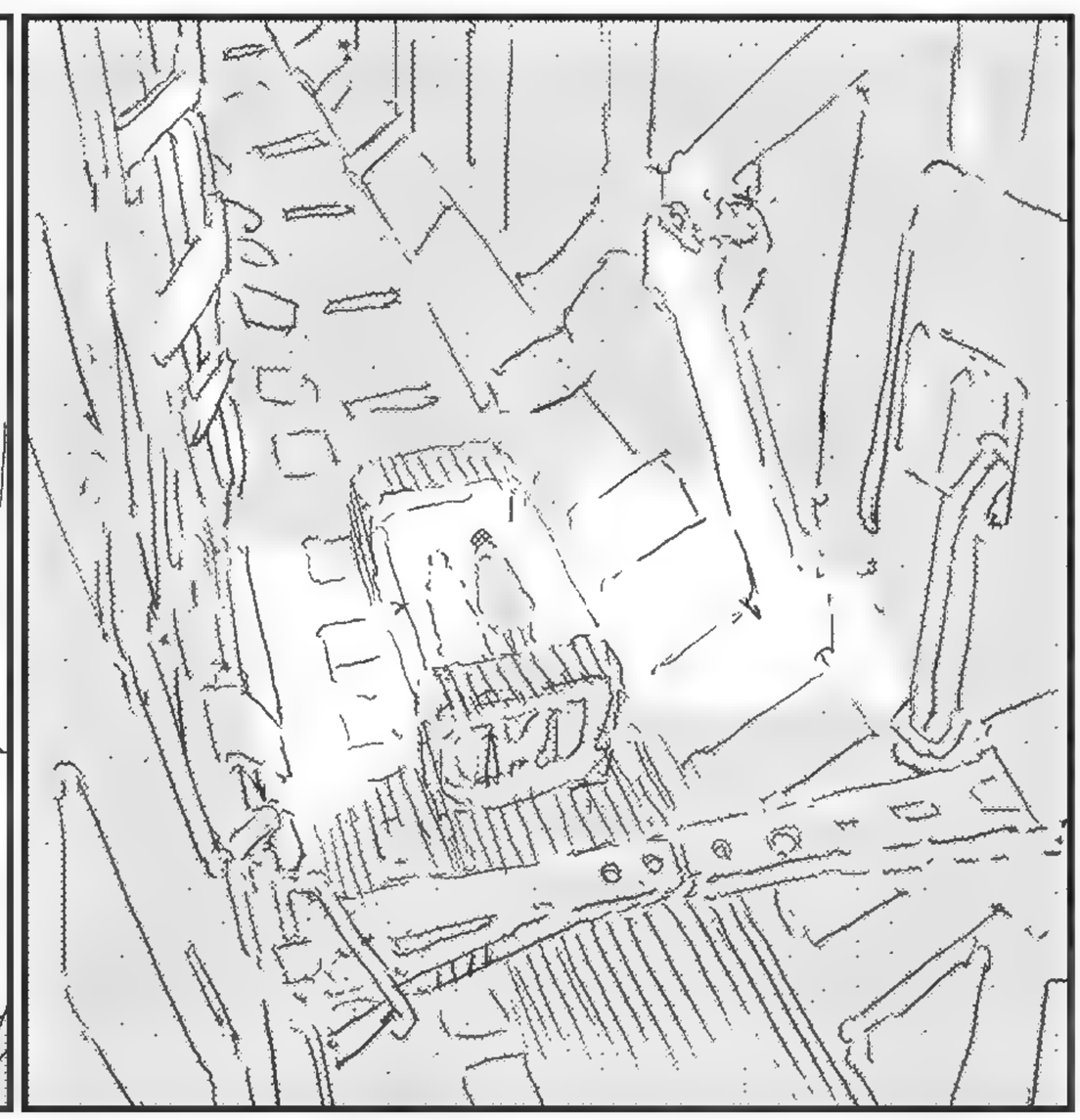

THANK YOU, BOTH OF YOU.

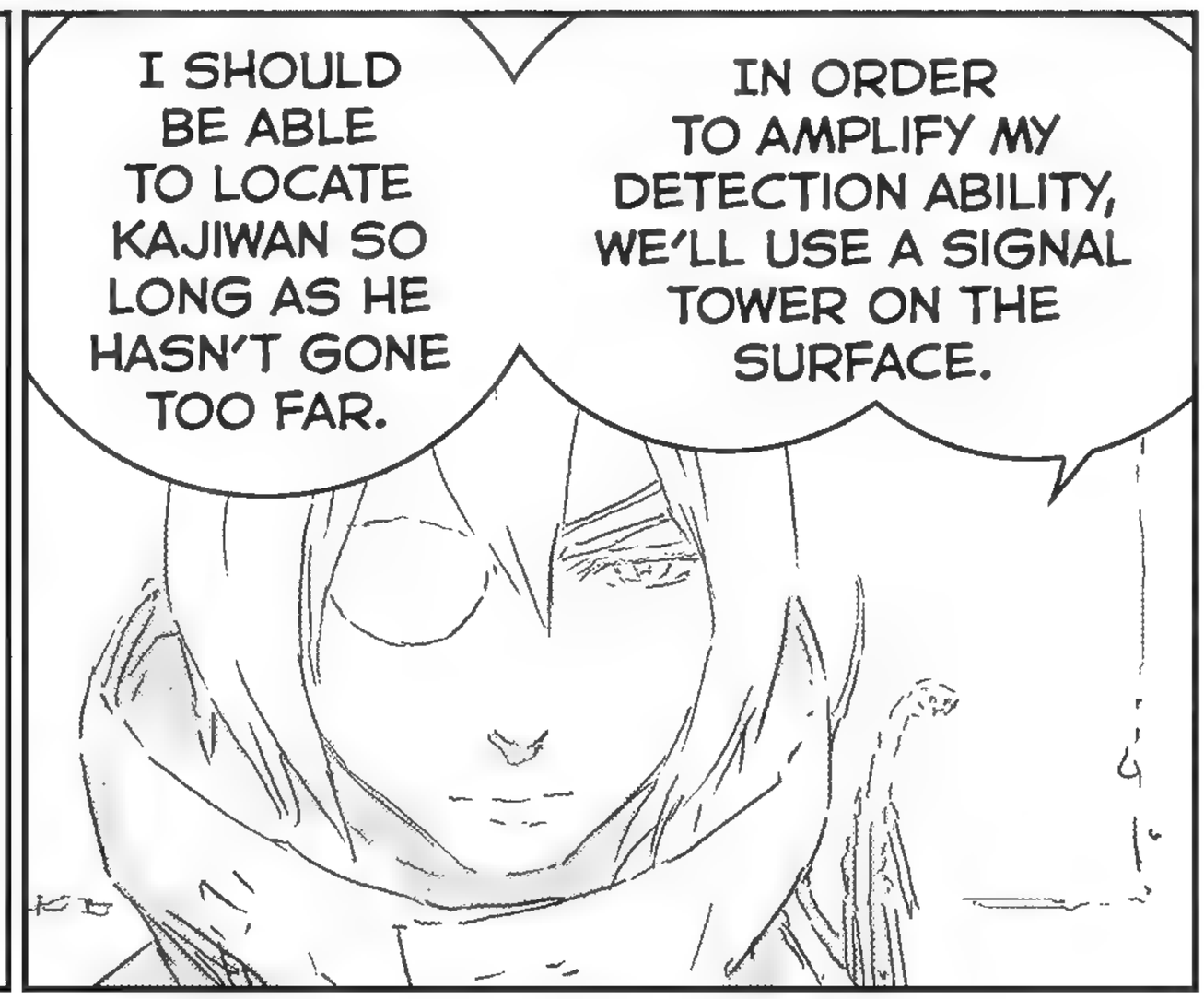
...WE NEED TO GO AFTER KAJIWAN.
I HAVE NO OBJECTION!

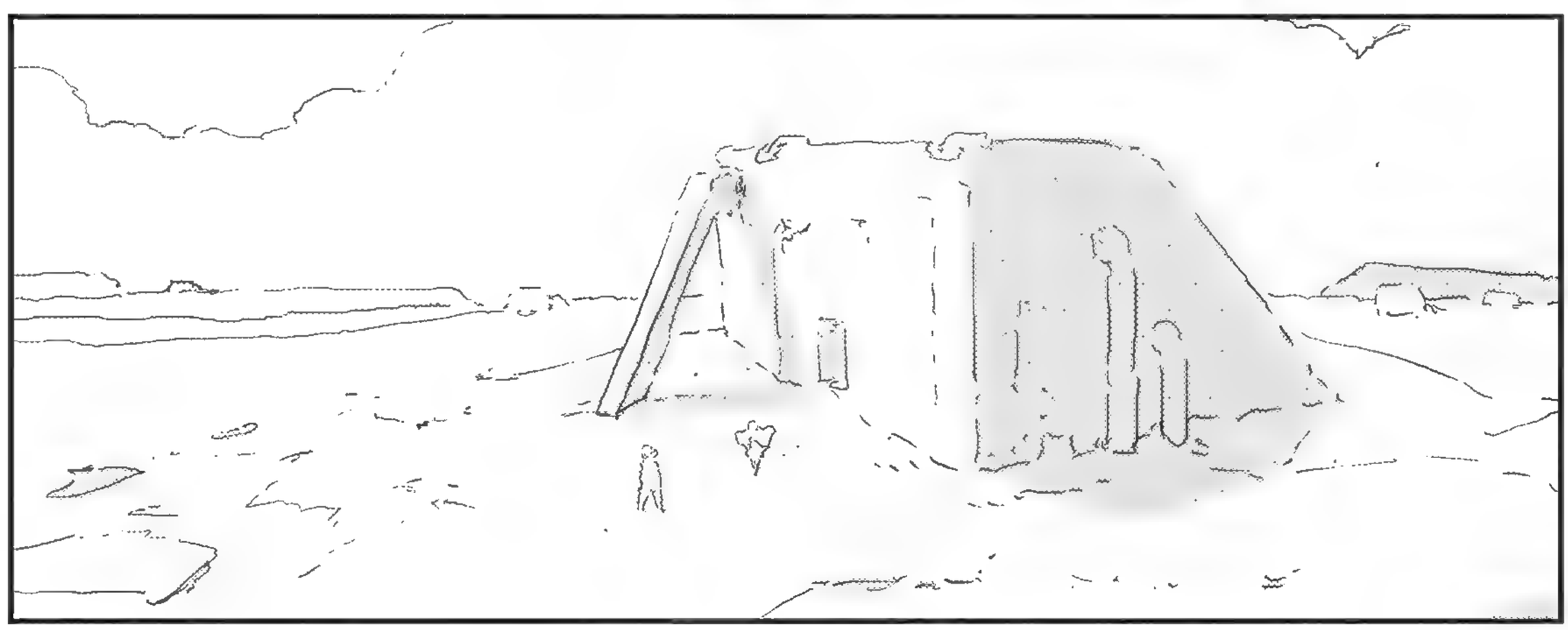

SEE YOU!

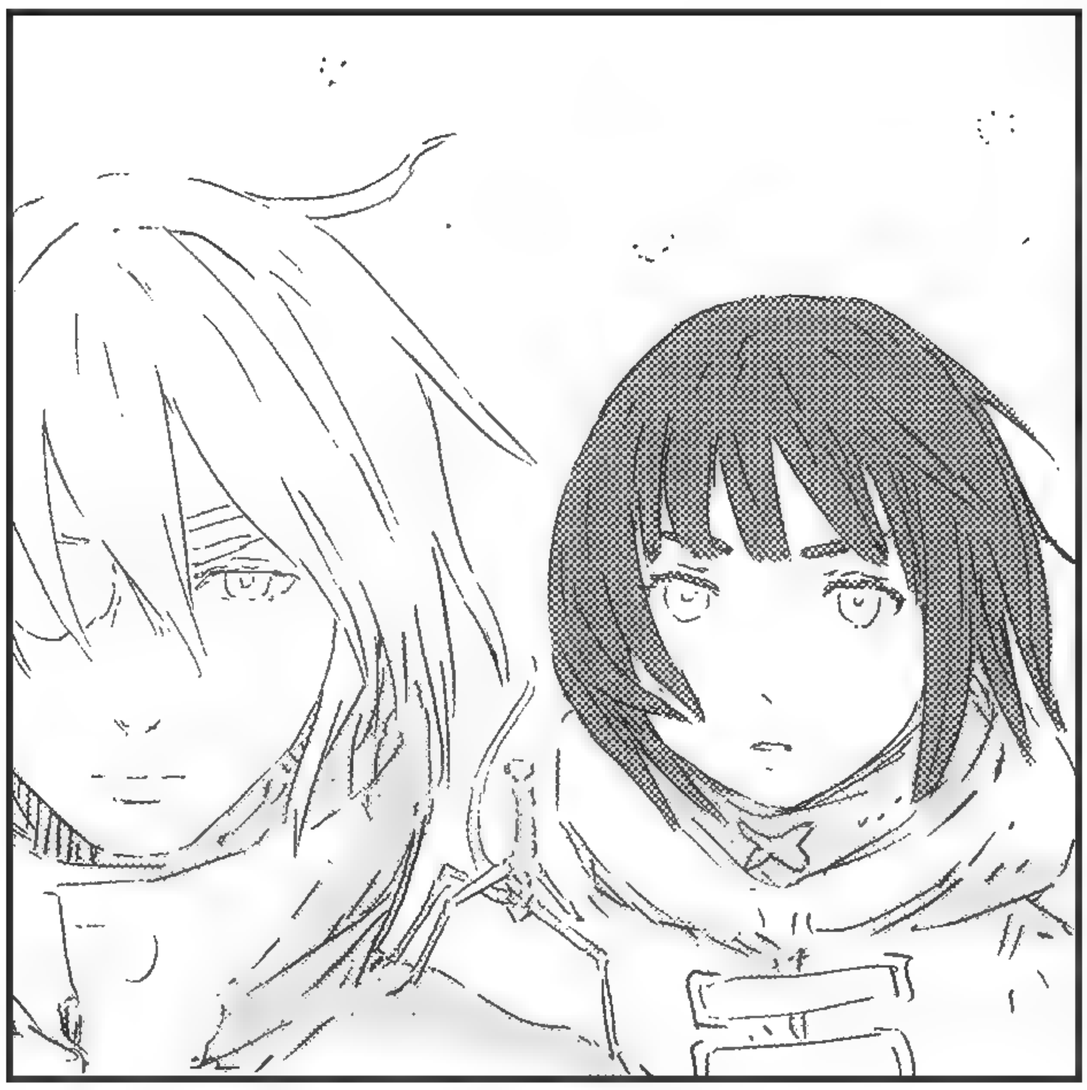
AND ALL OF YOU BE CAREFUL ON YOUR JOURNEY.
GOOD LUCK ...
THIS TIME IT REALLY IS GOODBYE.

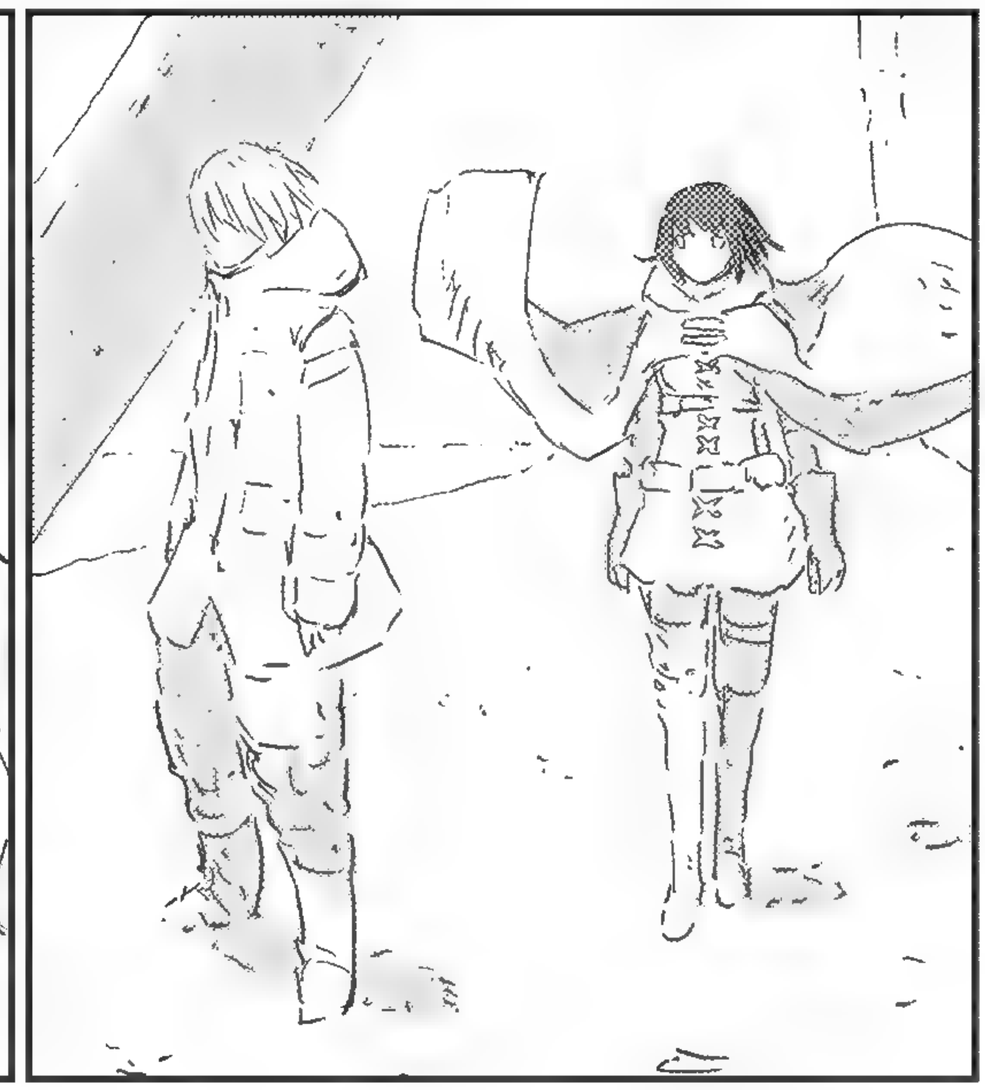

ゴ
VWWMMM

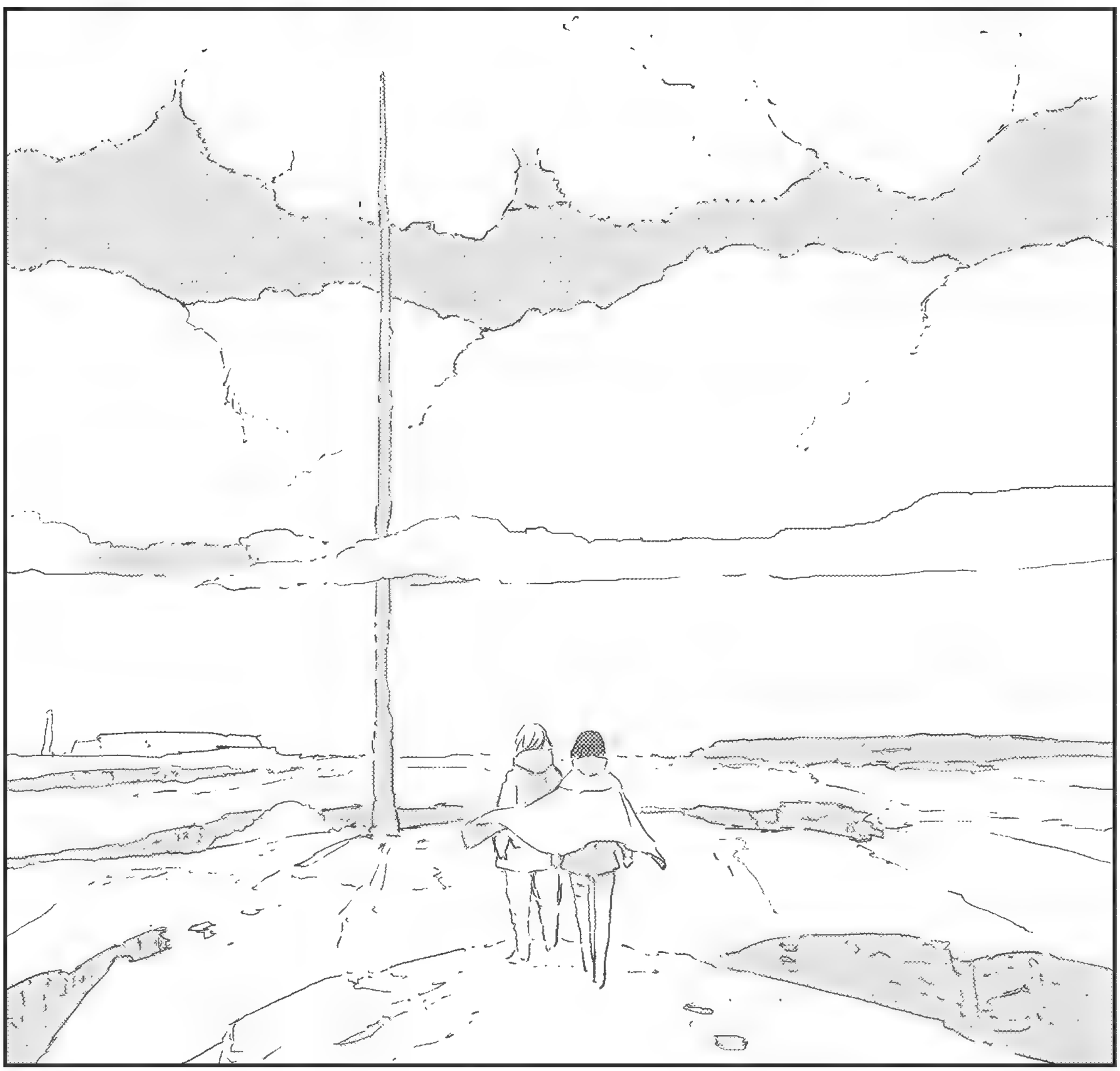


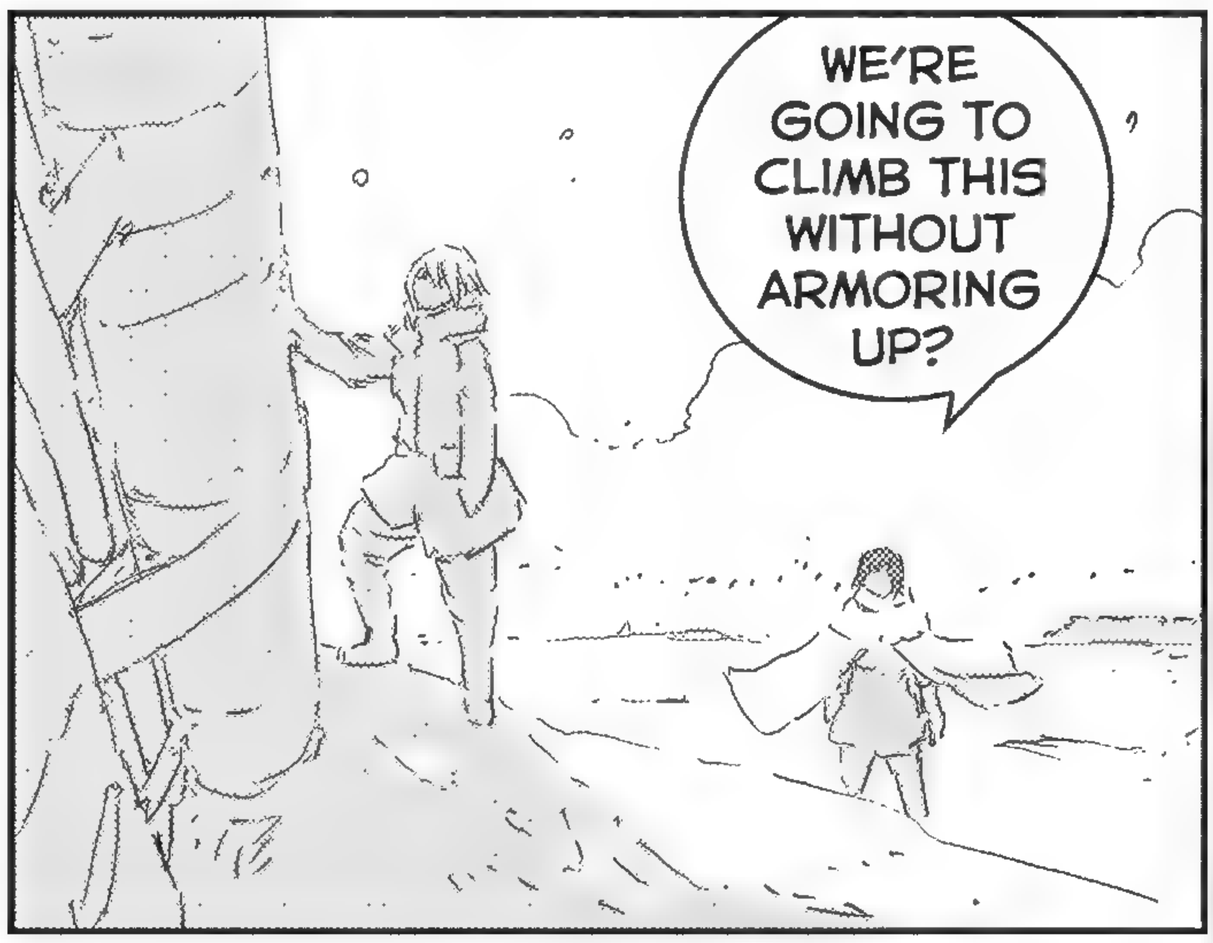

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOCATE KAJIWAN SO LONG AS HE HASN'T GONE TOO FAR.
IN ORDER TO AMPLIFY MY DETECTION ABILITY, WE'LL USE A SIGNAL TOWER ON THE SURFACE.

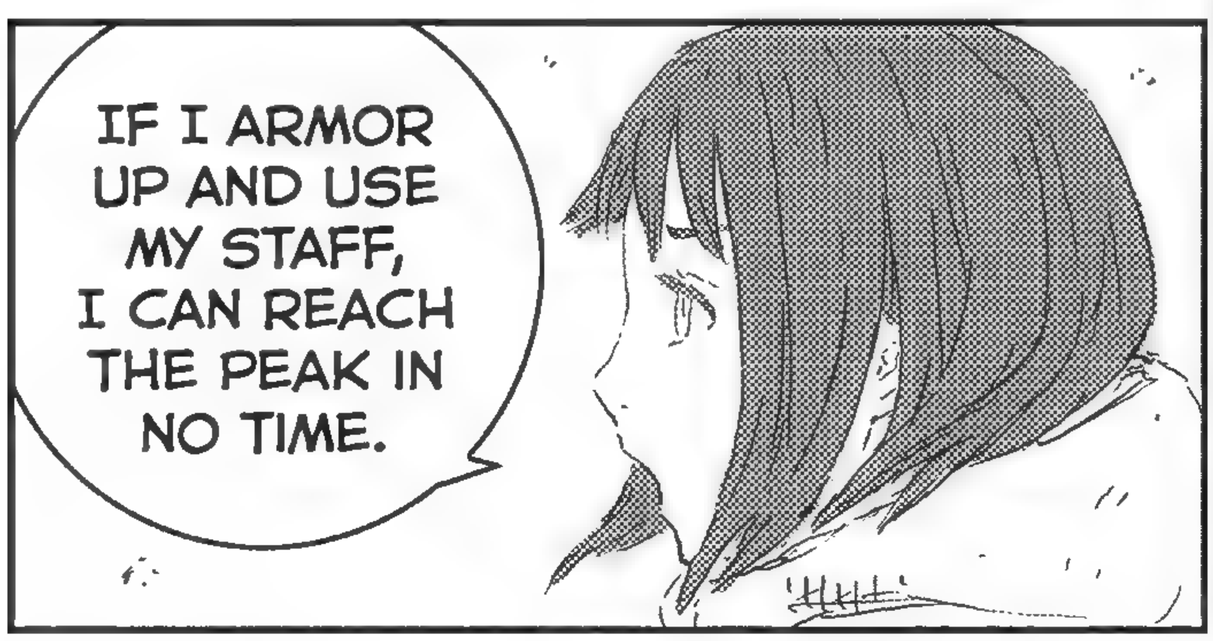


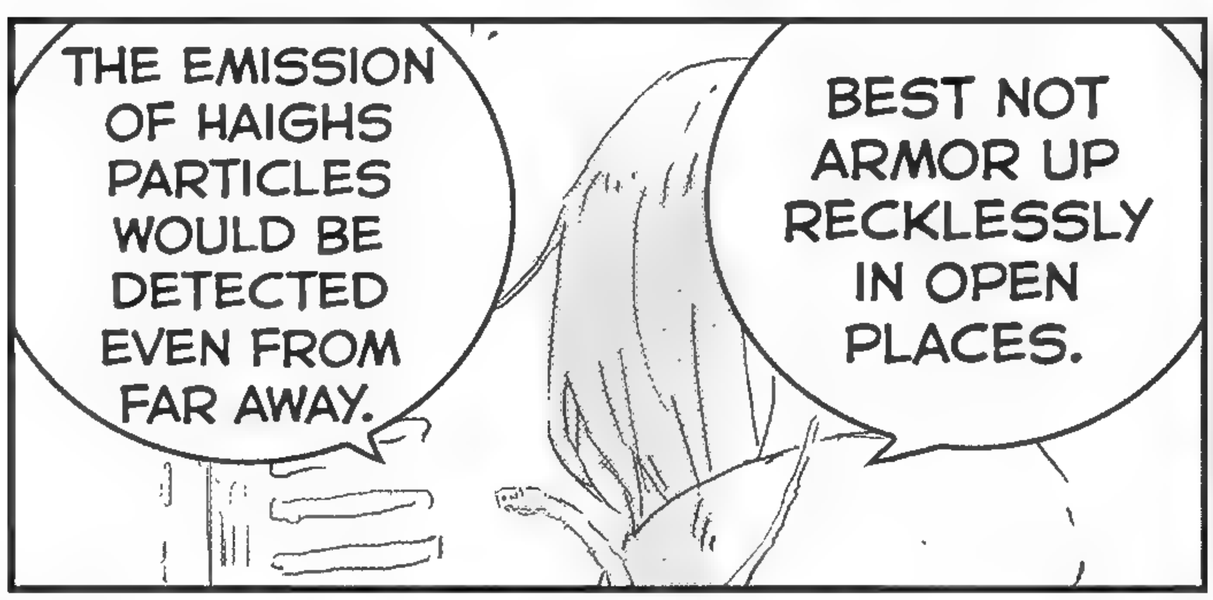




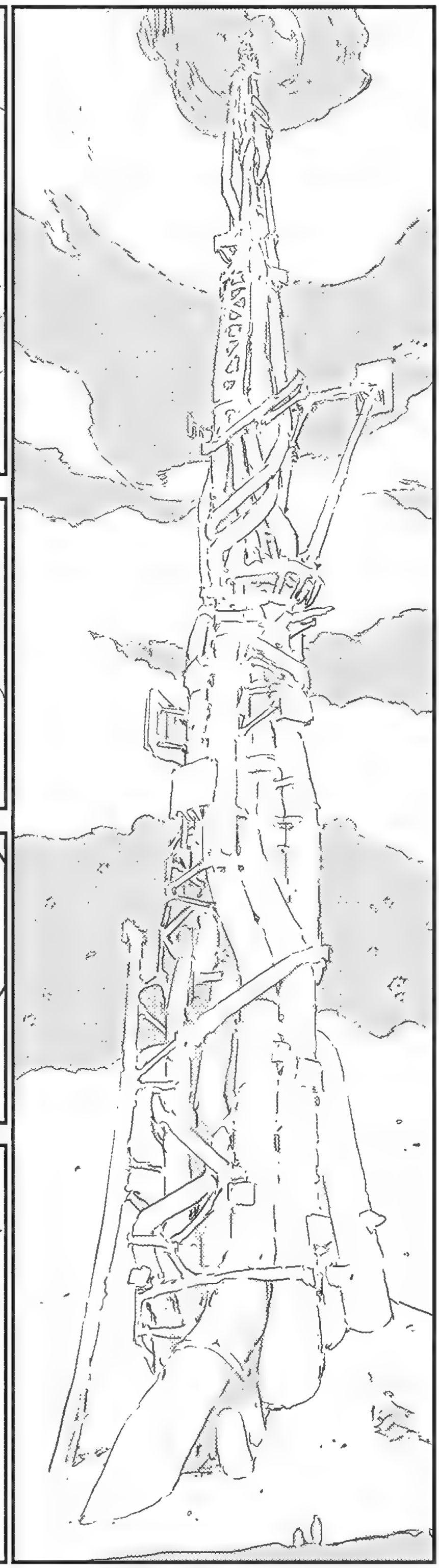


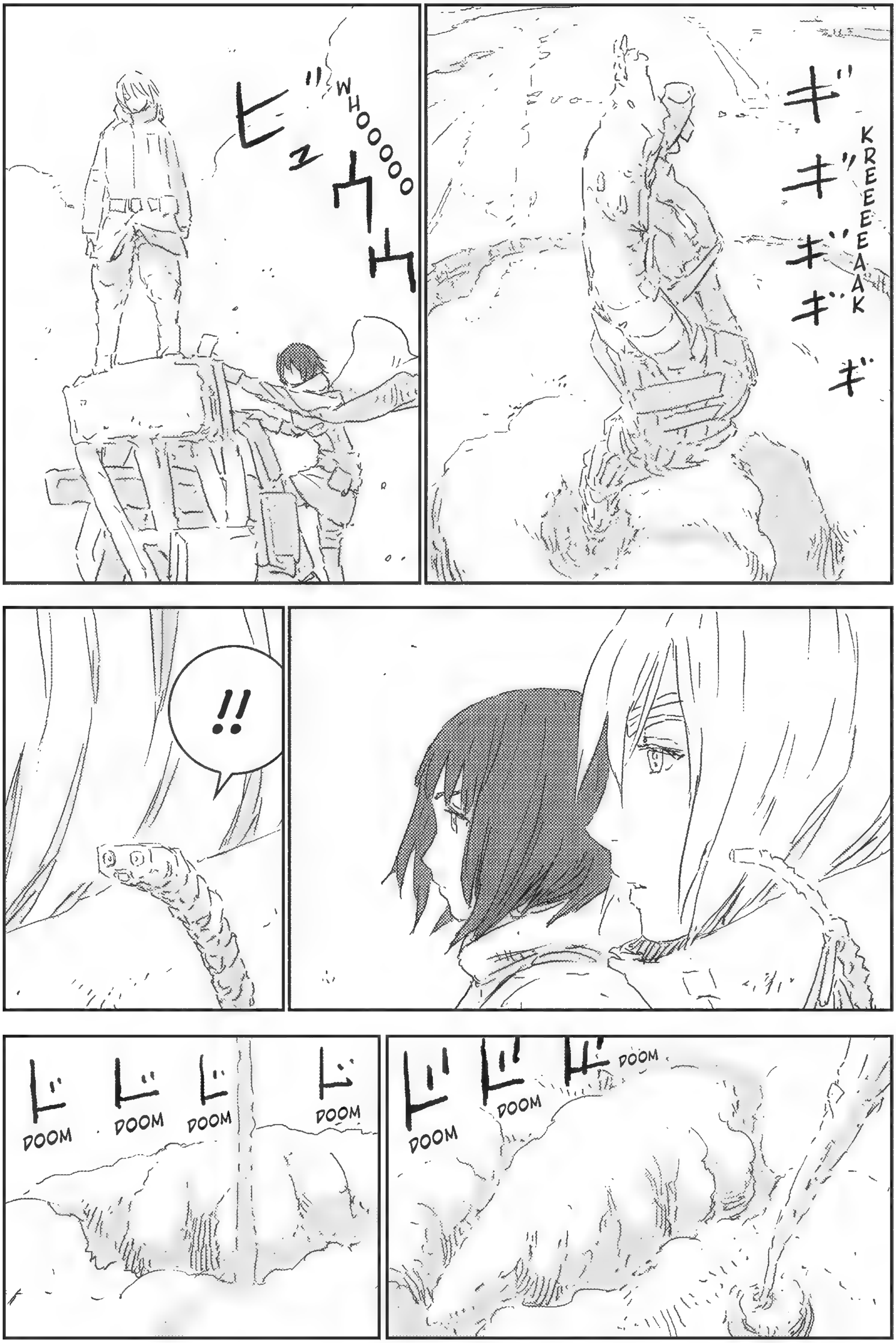

WE'RE GOING TO CLIMB THIS WITHOUT ARMORING UP?


IF I ARMOR UP AND USE MY STAFF, I CAN REACH THE PEAK IN NO TIME.


THE EMISSION OF HAIGHS PARTICLES WOULD BE DETECTED EVEN FROM FAR AWAY.
BEST NOT ARMOR UP RECKLESSLY IN OPEN PLACES.

RESIGN YOURSELF TO IT, AND CLIMB.
...




ギ
ギ
ギ
ギ
ギ
KREEEEAAK
ヒュ
WHOOOOO
!!
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
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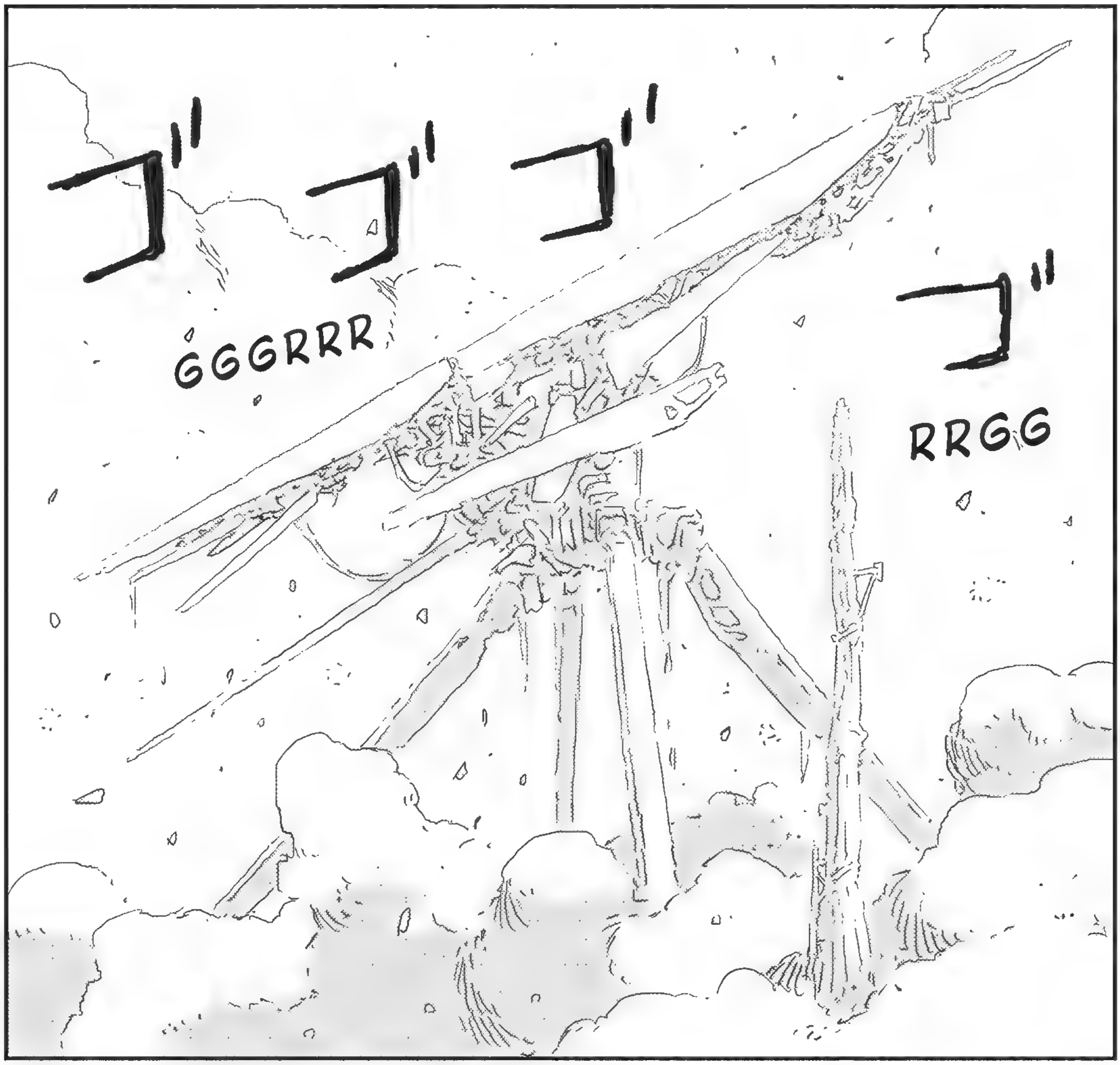
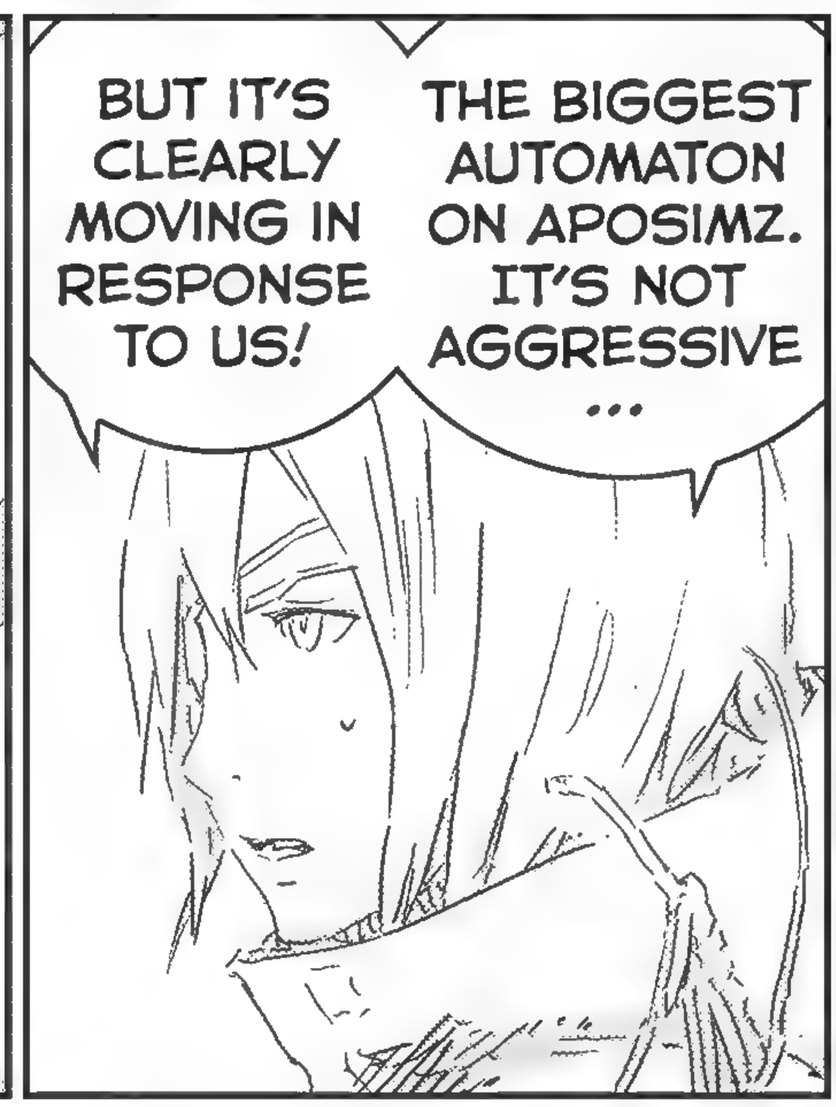
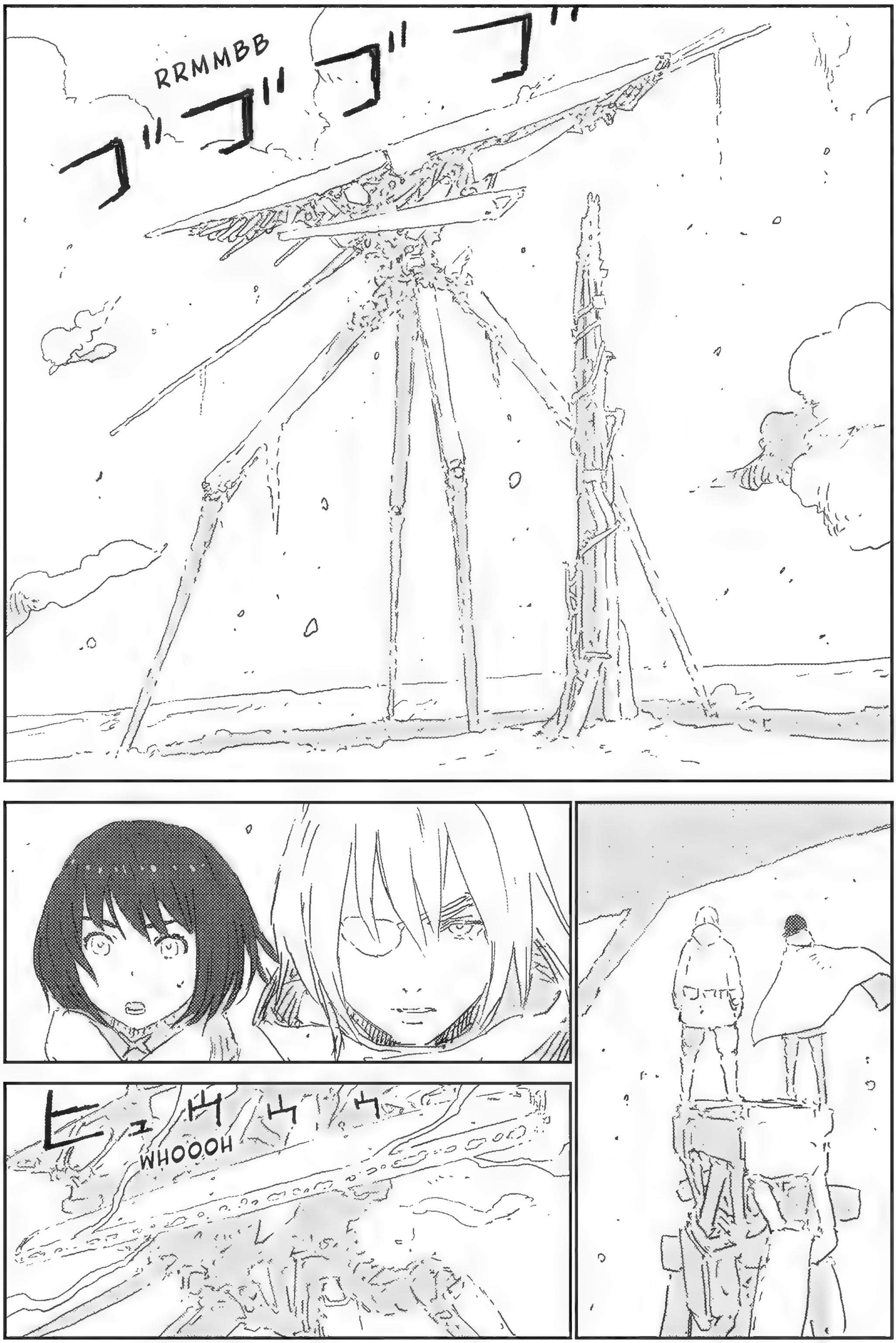
DOOM

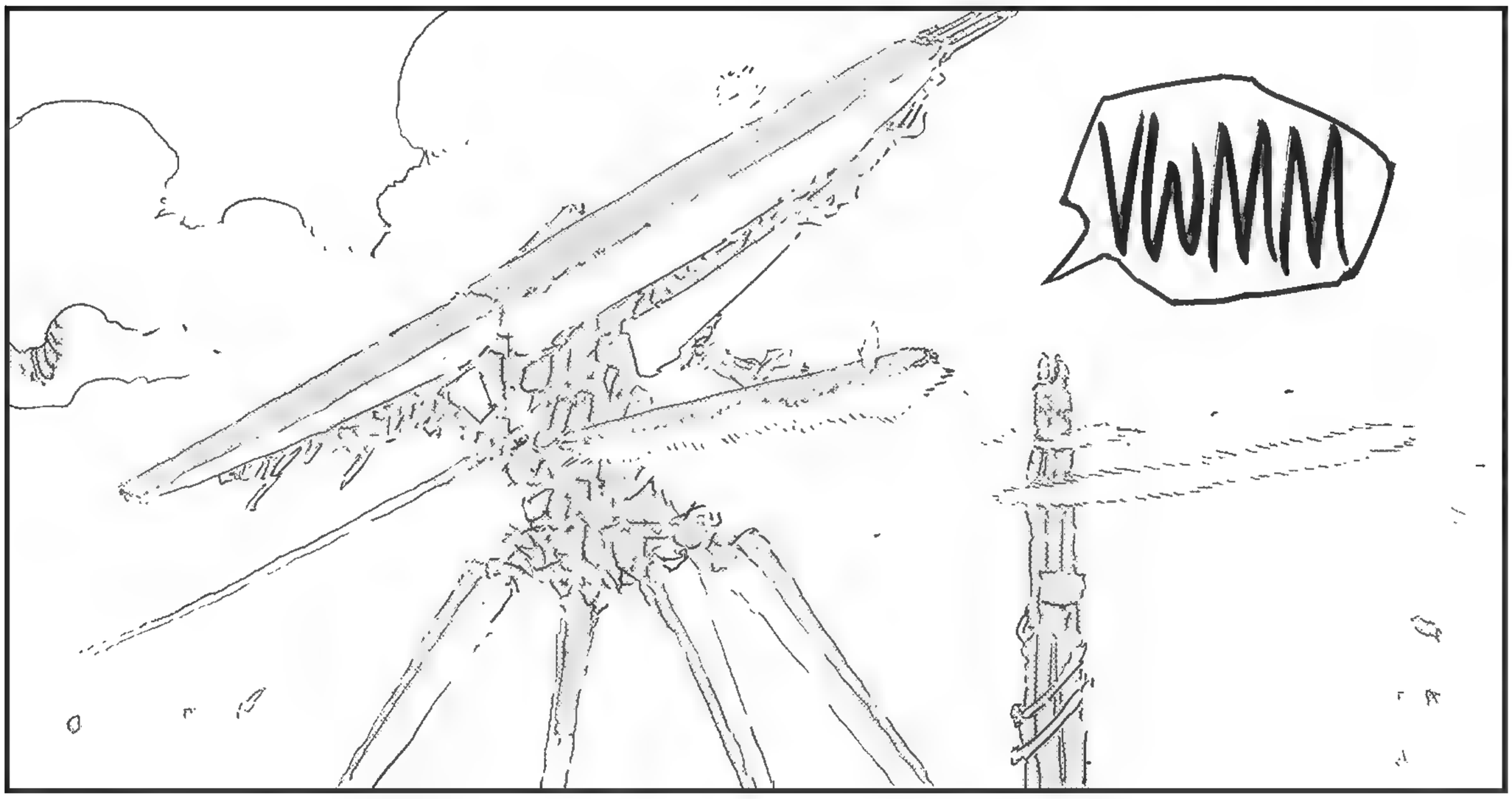


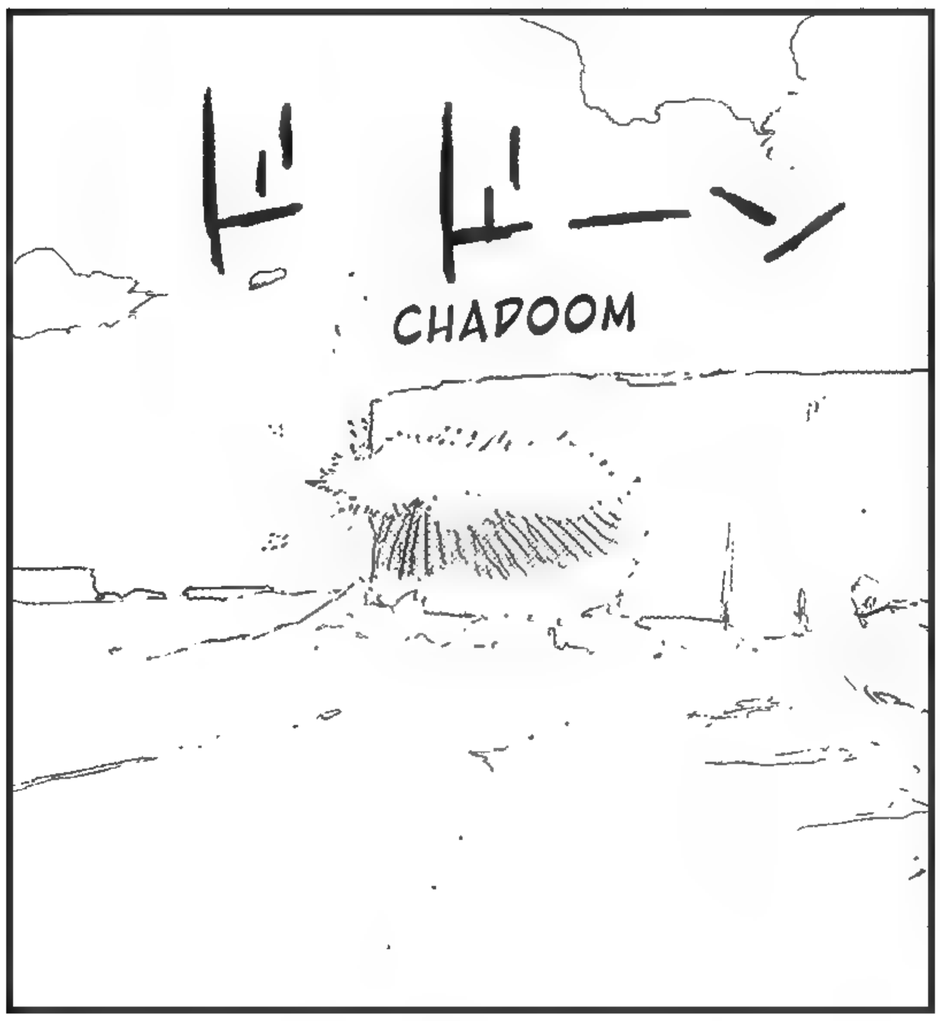


CHAPTER 16 END

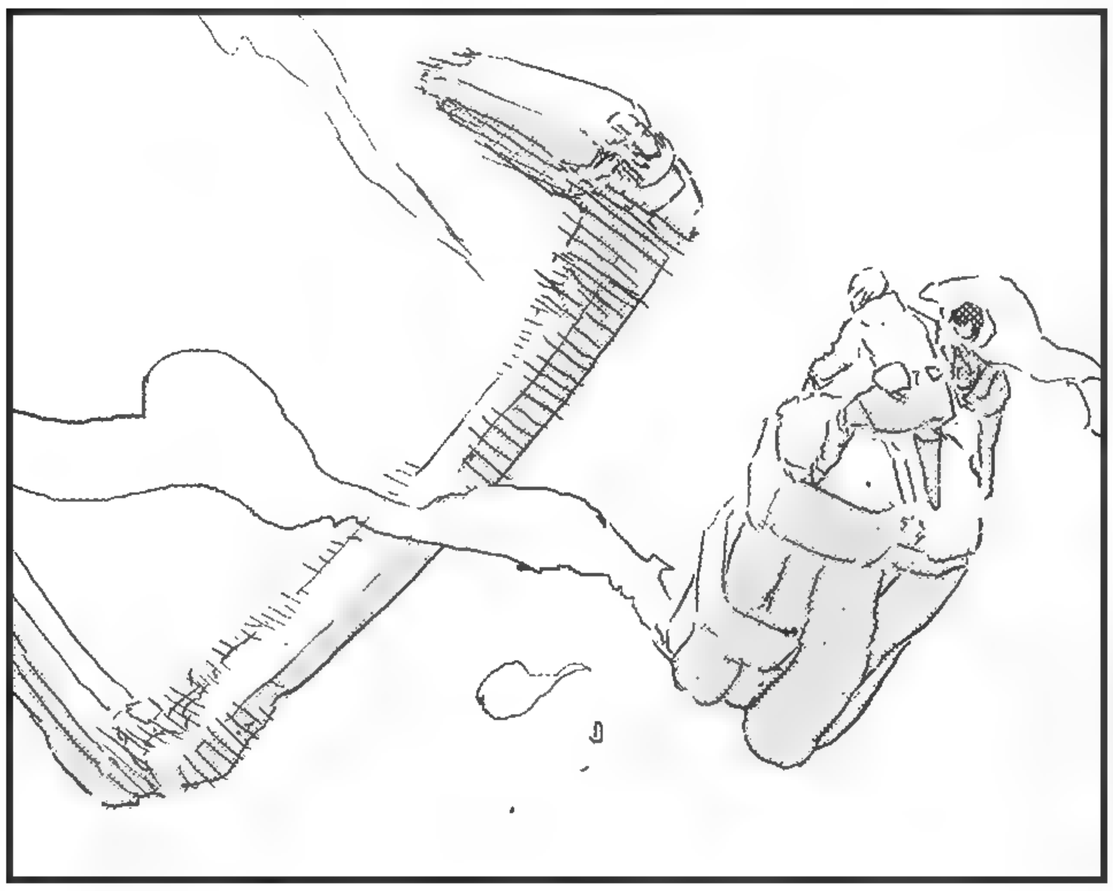
CHAPTER 17

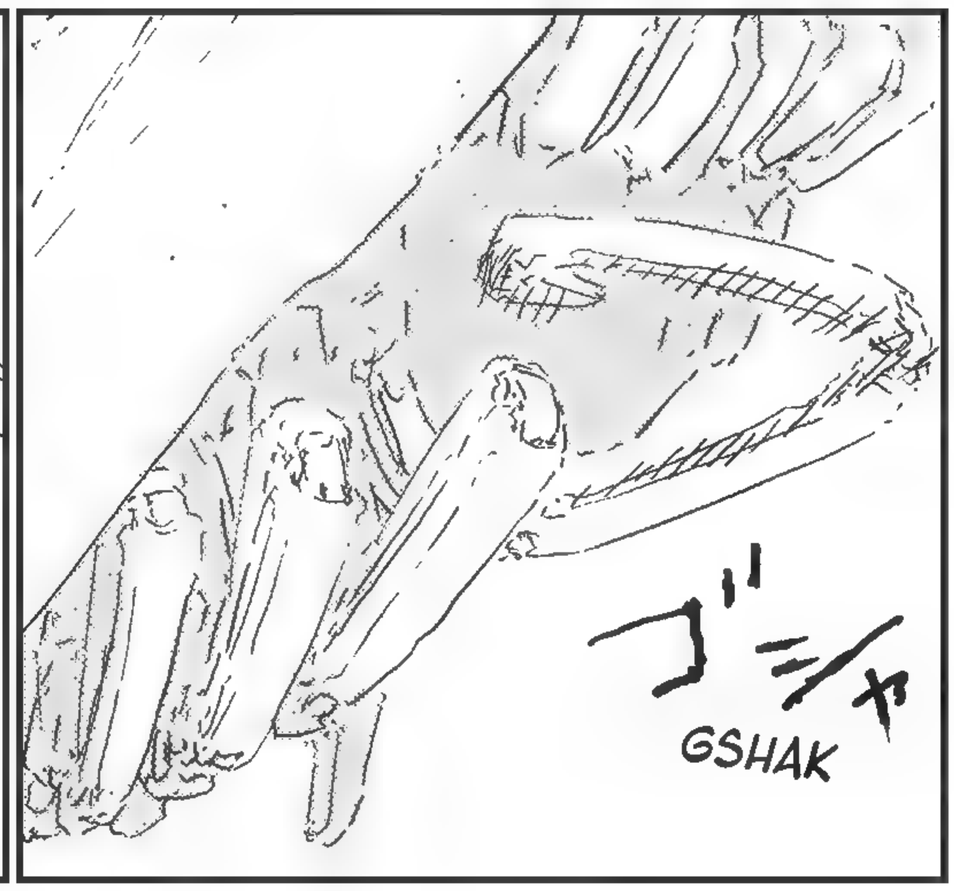

RRMMBB
WHOOOH


VWMM


CHADOOM

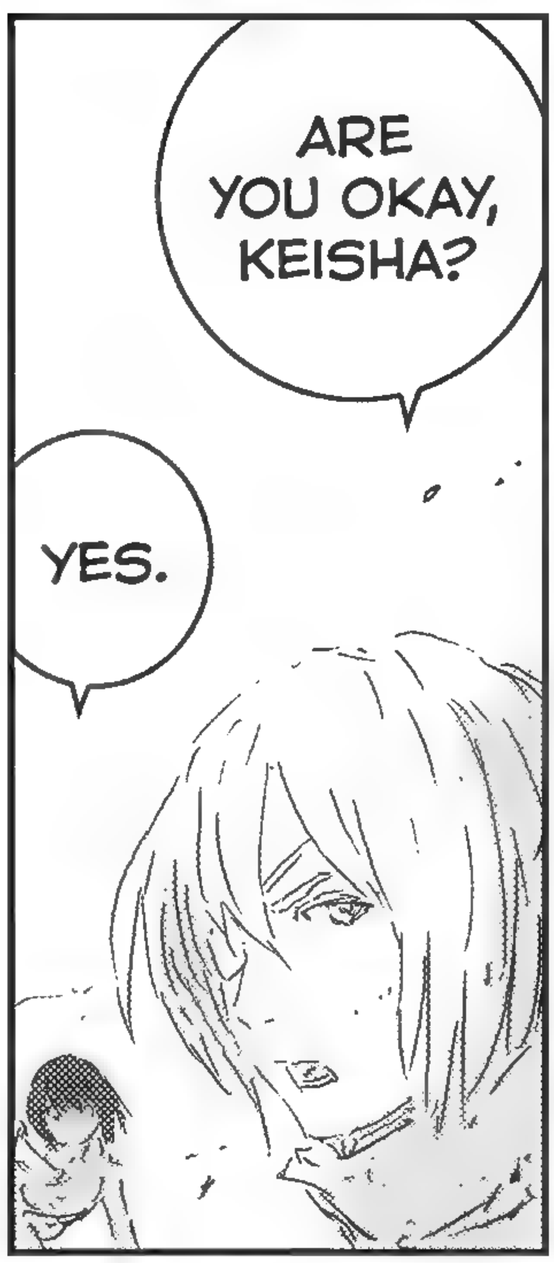
VWMM

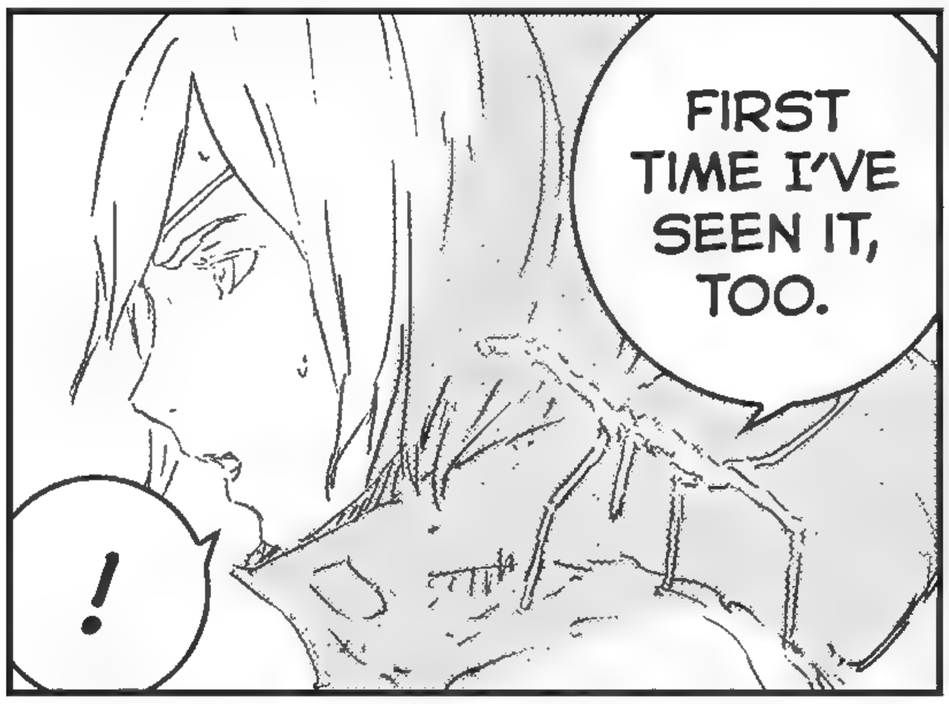



GSHAK

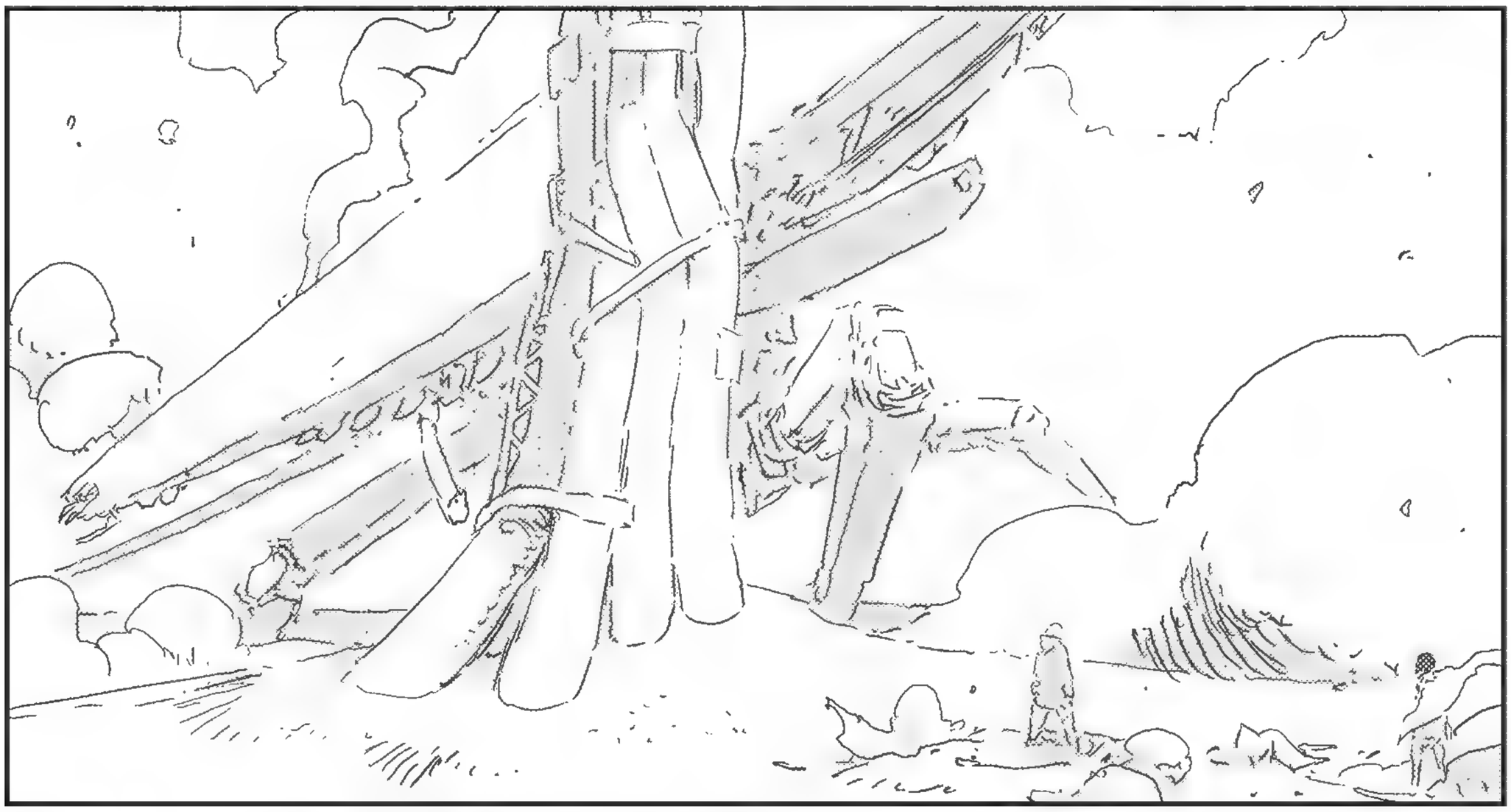
KRUNCH

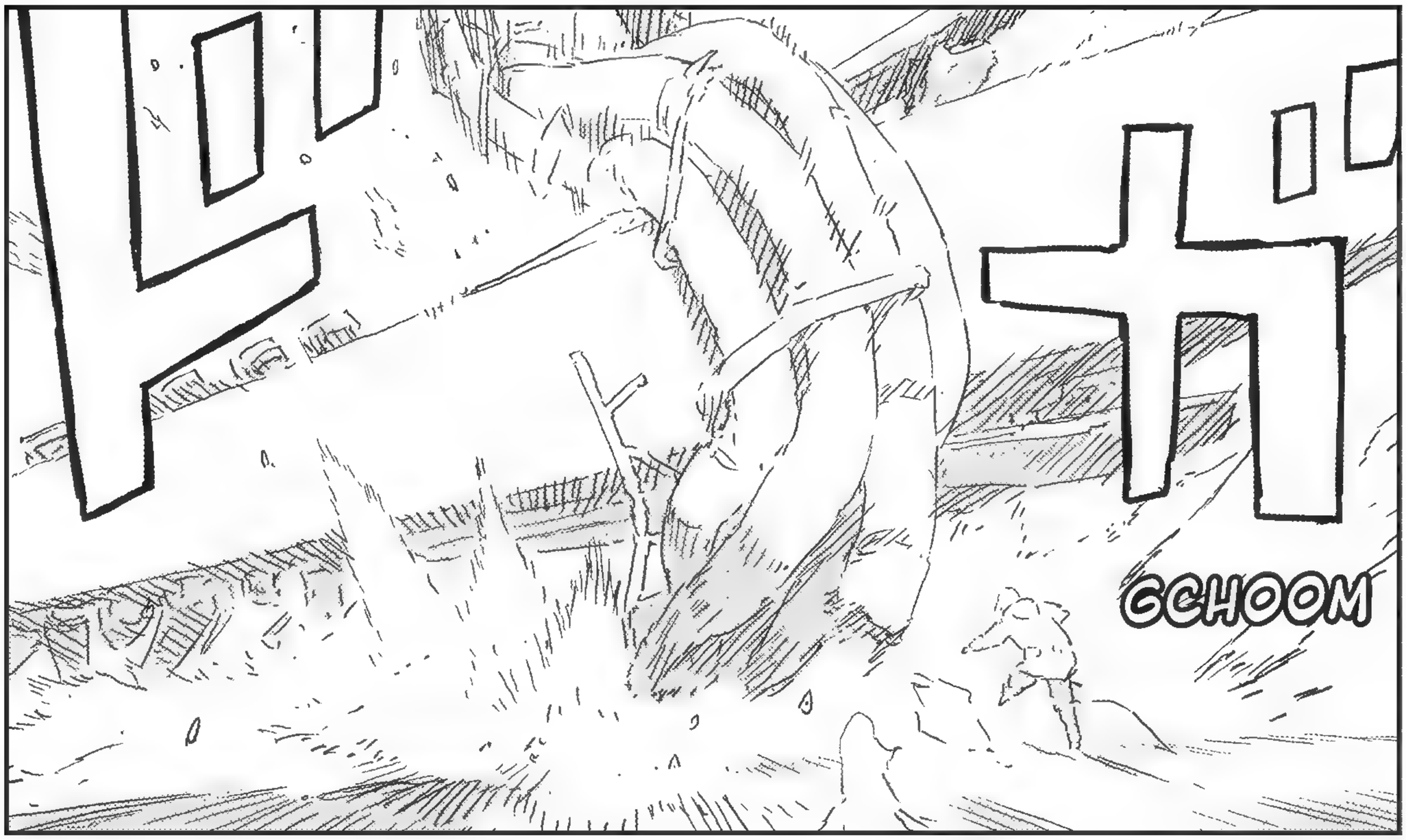
GABOOM

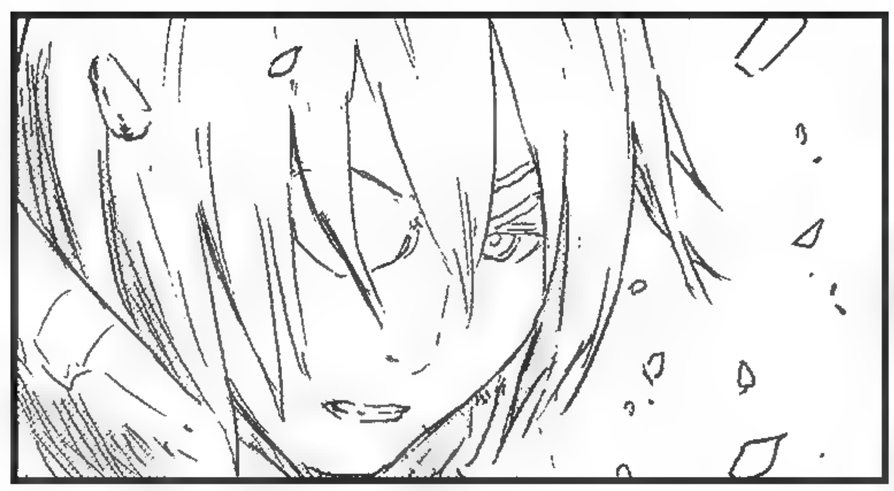

ARE YOU OKAY, KEISHA?
YES.


FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT, TOO.
!

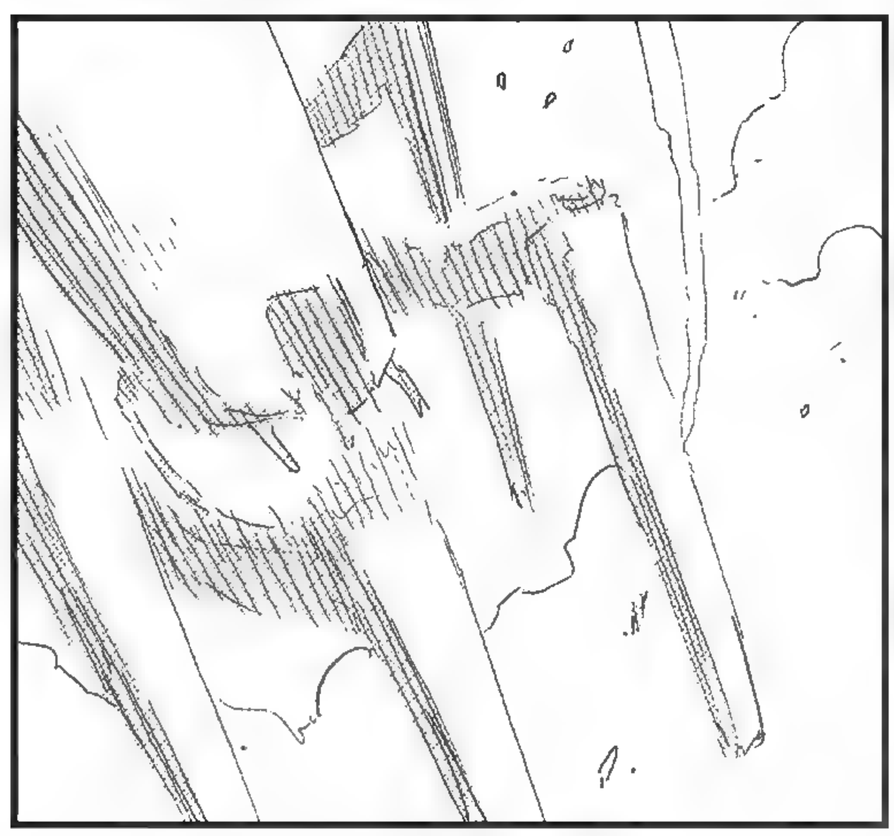
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A GROUND LEVELER JUST ATTACKING PEOPLE BEFORE!
BUT...



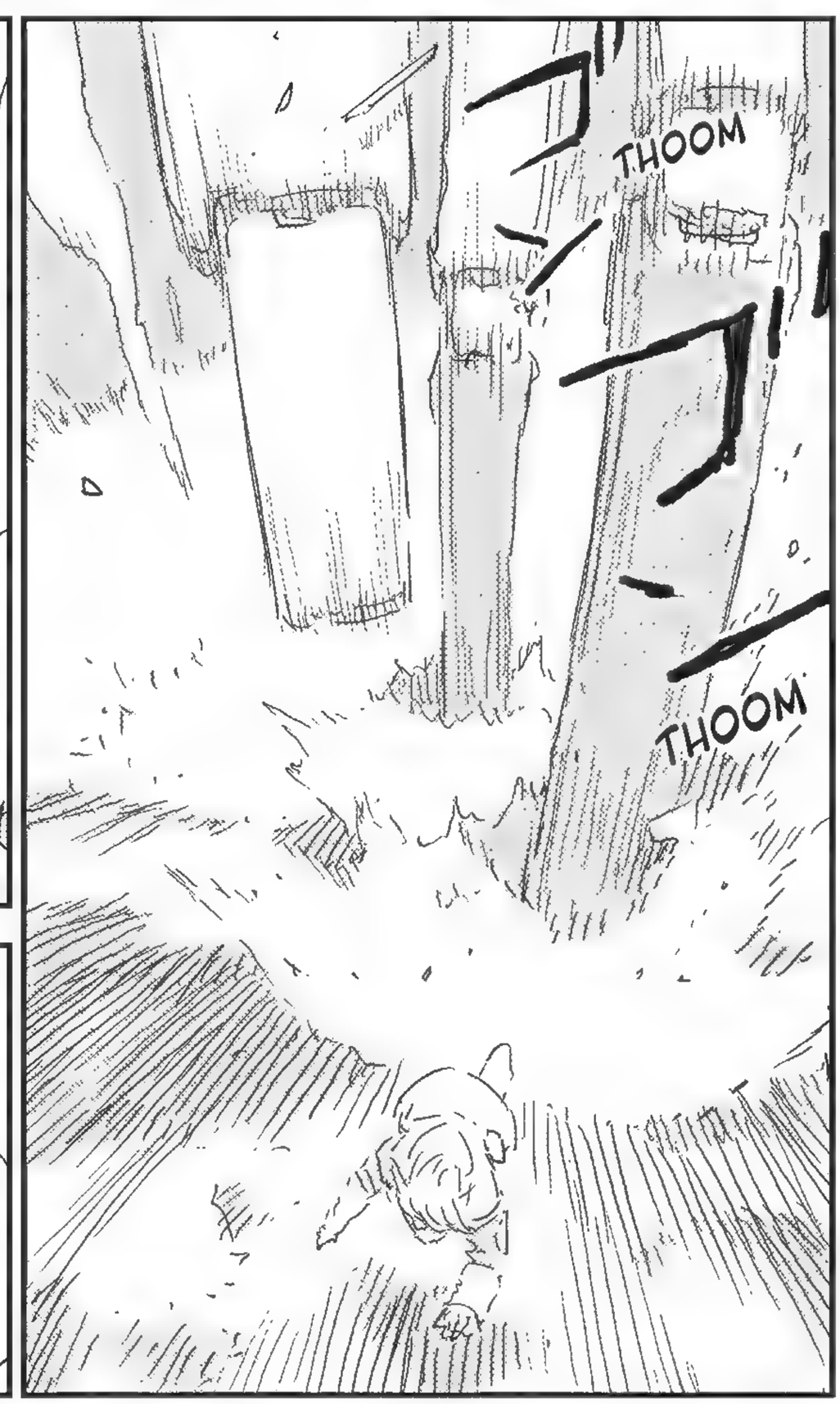

GCHOOM

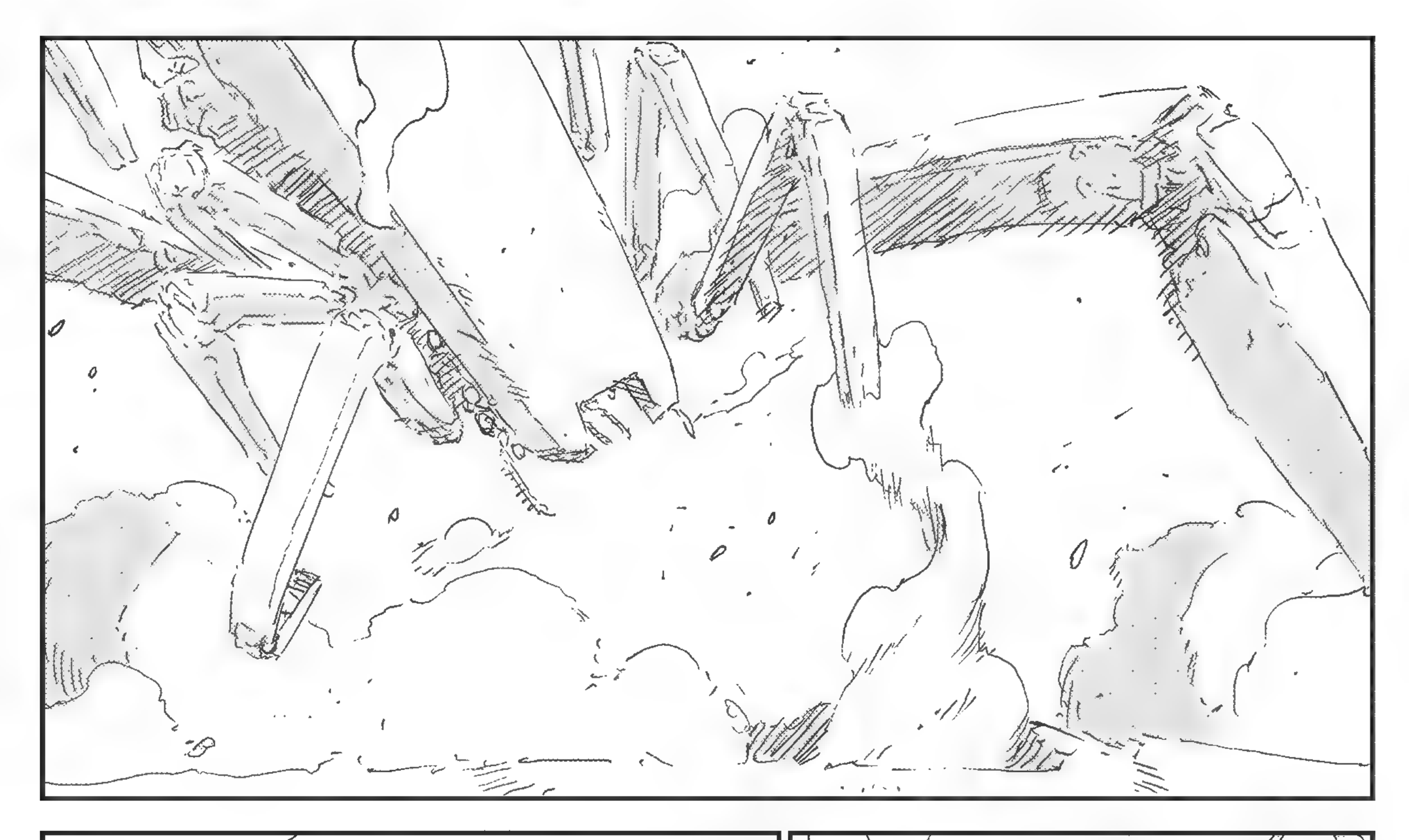


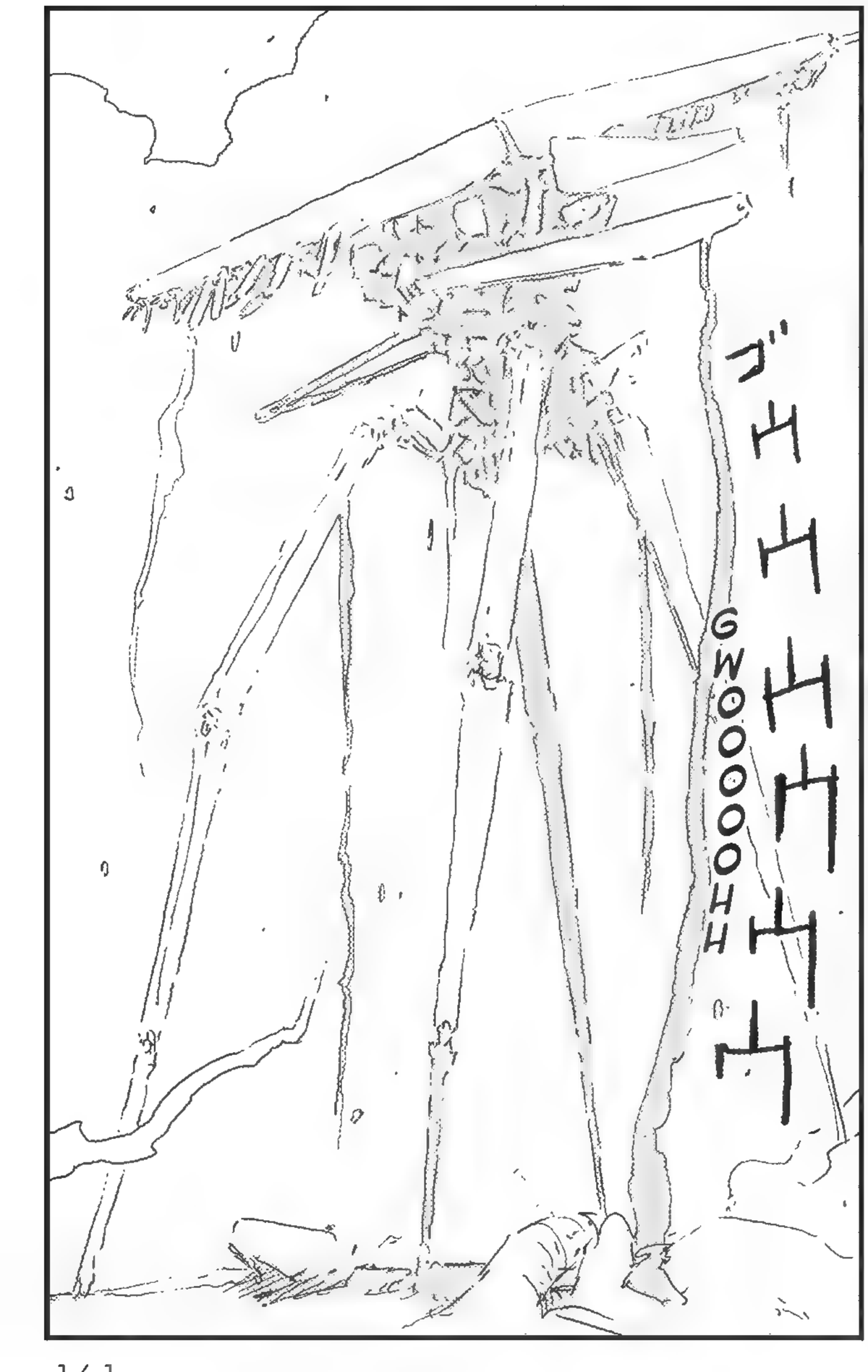
GWOOM
GAKRUNK



GWOOM


THOOM
THOOM




ゴ
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GWOOOOOHH
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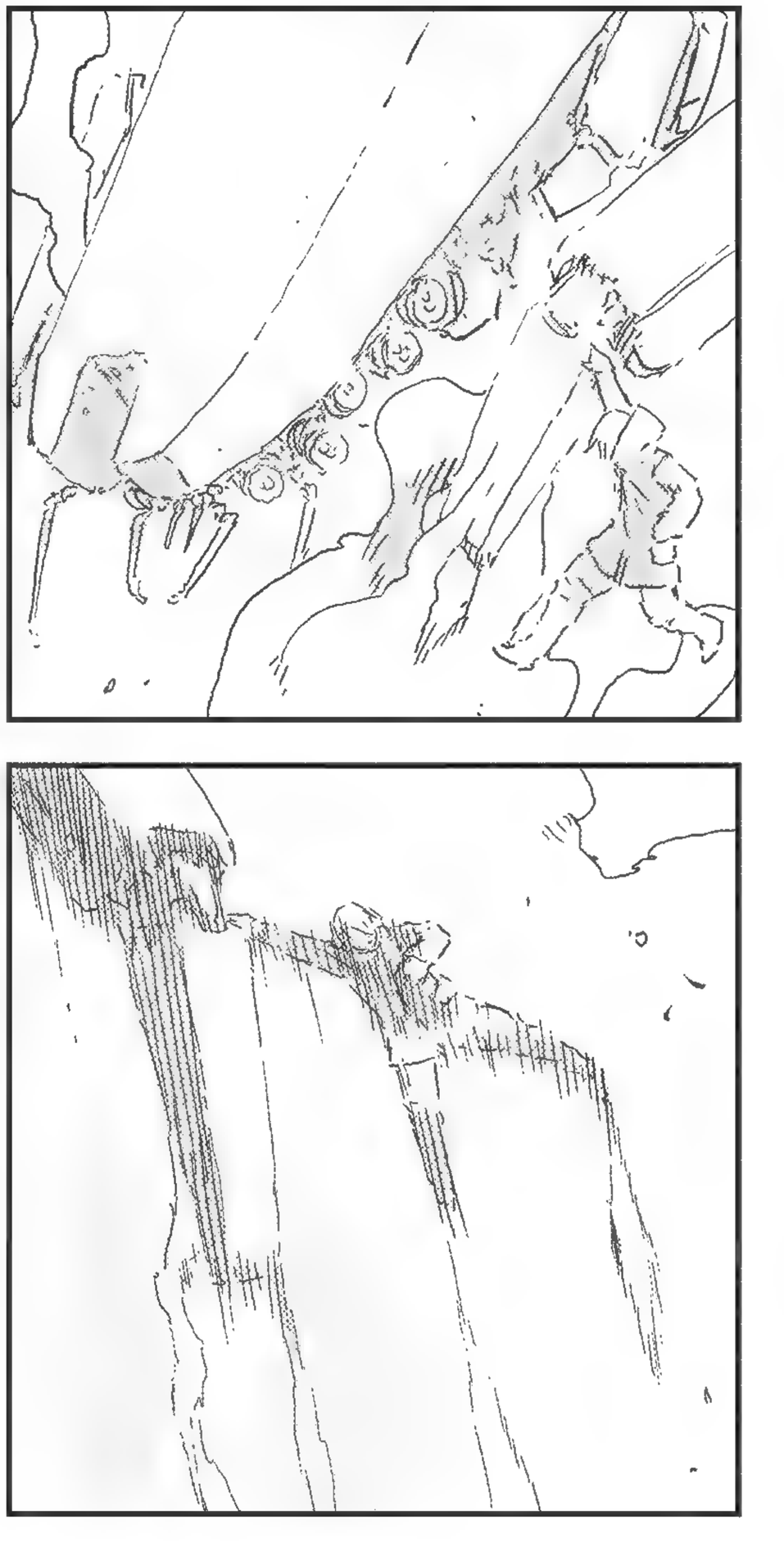
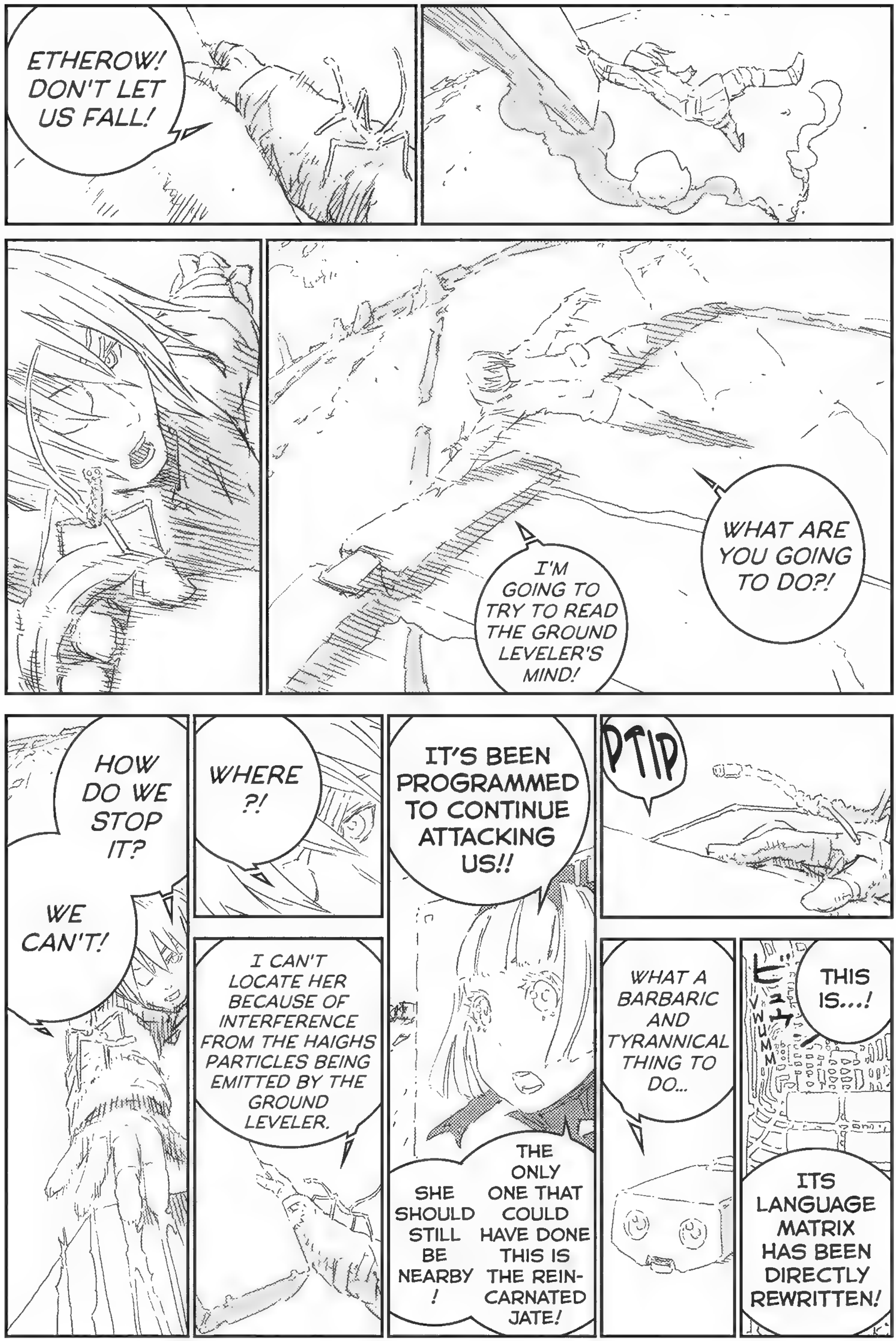
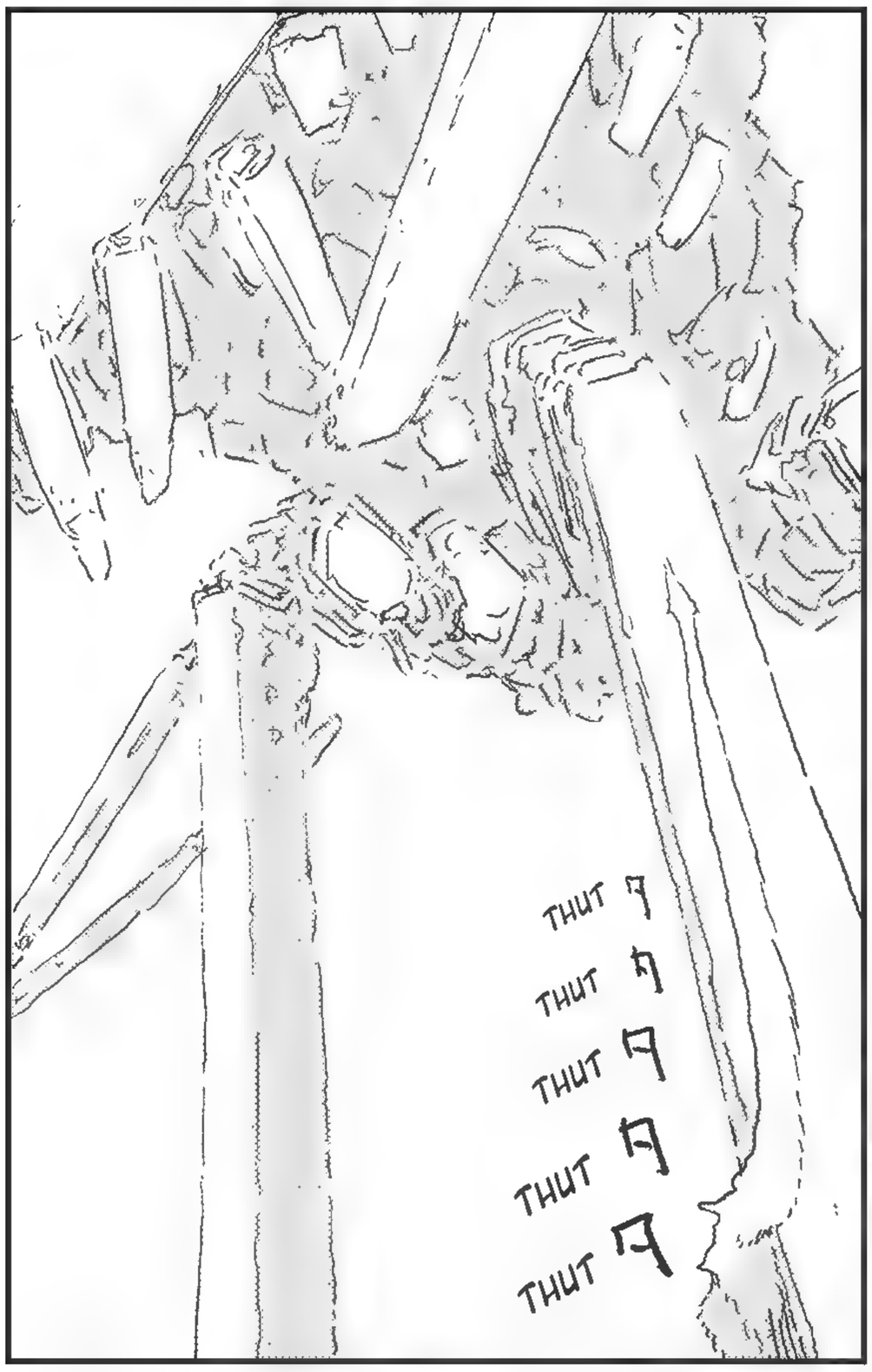
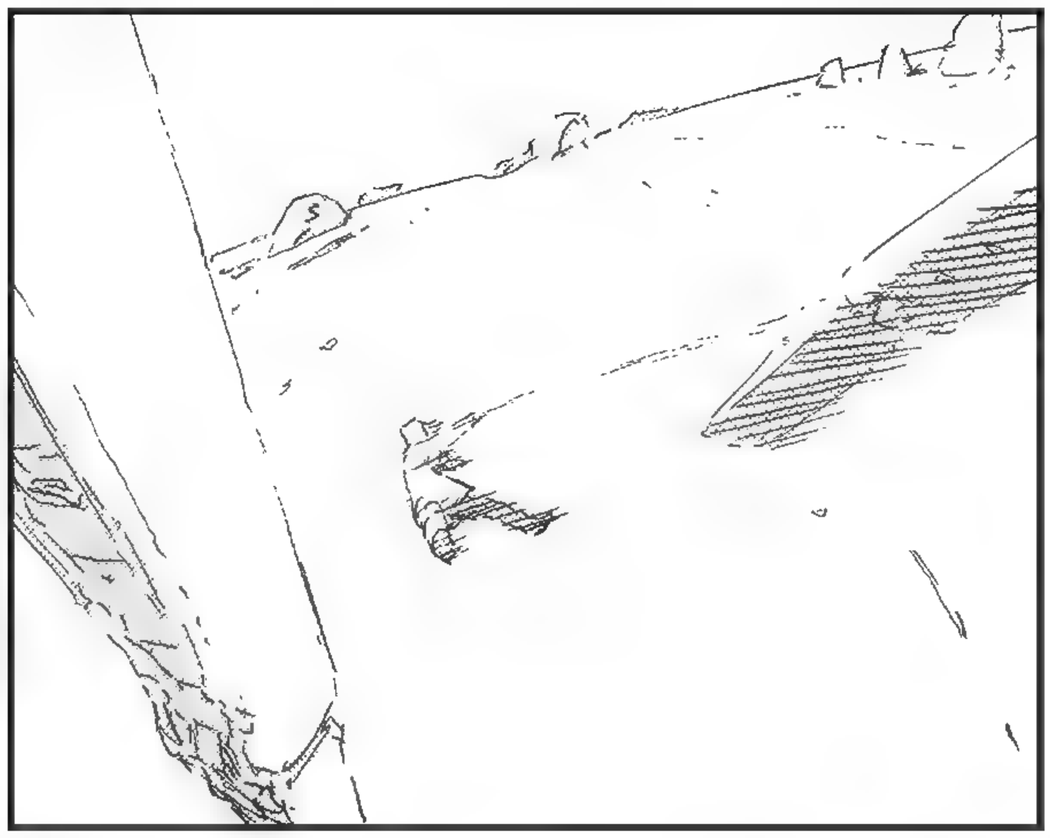
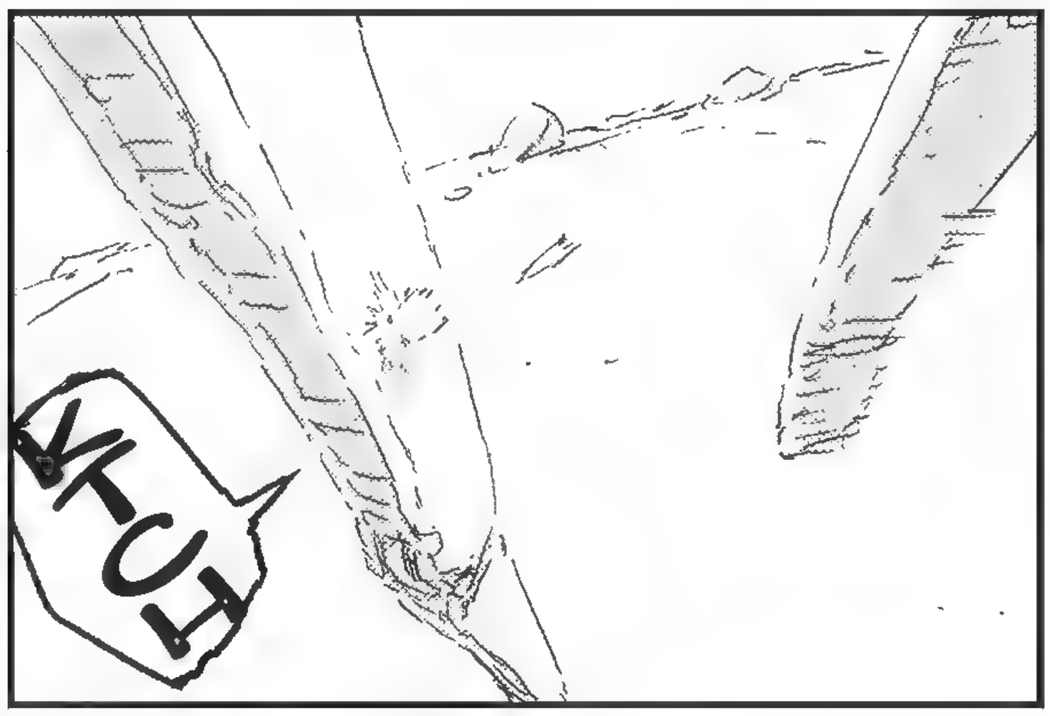
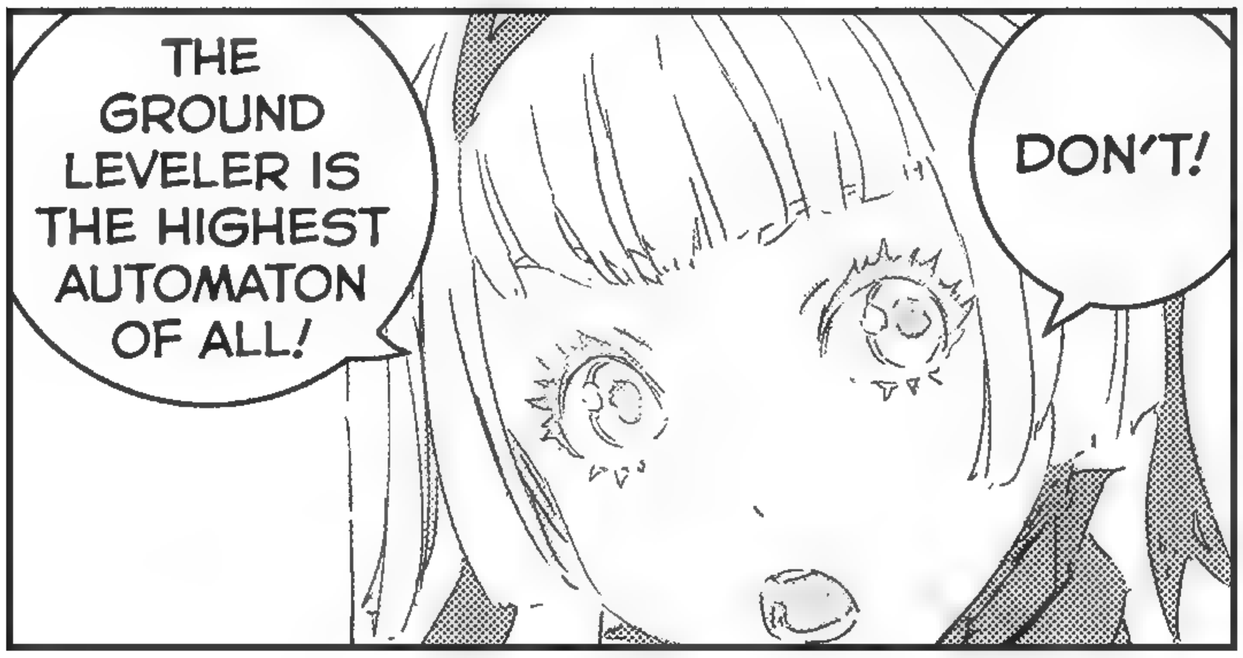



ETHEROW! DON'T LET US FALL!
I'M GOING TO TRY TO READ THE GROUND LEVELER'S MIND!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
HOW DO WE STOP IT?
WE CAN'T!
WHERE ?!
I CAN'T LOCATE HER BECAUSE OF INTERFERENCE FROM THE HAIGHS PARTICLES BEING EMITTED BY THE GROUND LEVELER.
IT'S BEEN PROGRAMMED TO CONTINUE ATTACKING US!!
SHE SHOULD STILL BE NEARBY !
THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS IS THE REIN-CARNATED JATE!
PTIP
WHAT A BARBARIC AND TYRANNICAL THING TO DO...
THIS IS...!
ITS LANGUAGE MATRIX HAS BEEN DIRECTLY REWRITTEN!


THUT
THUT
THUT
THUT
THUT

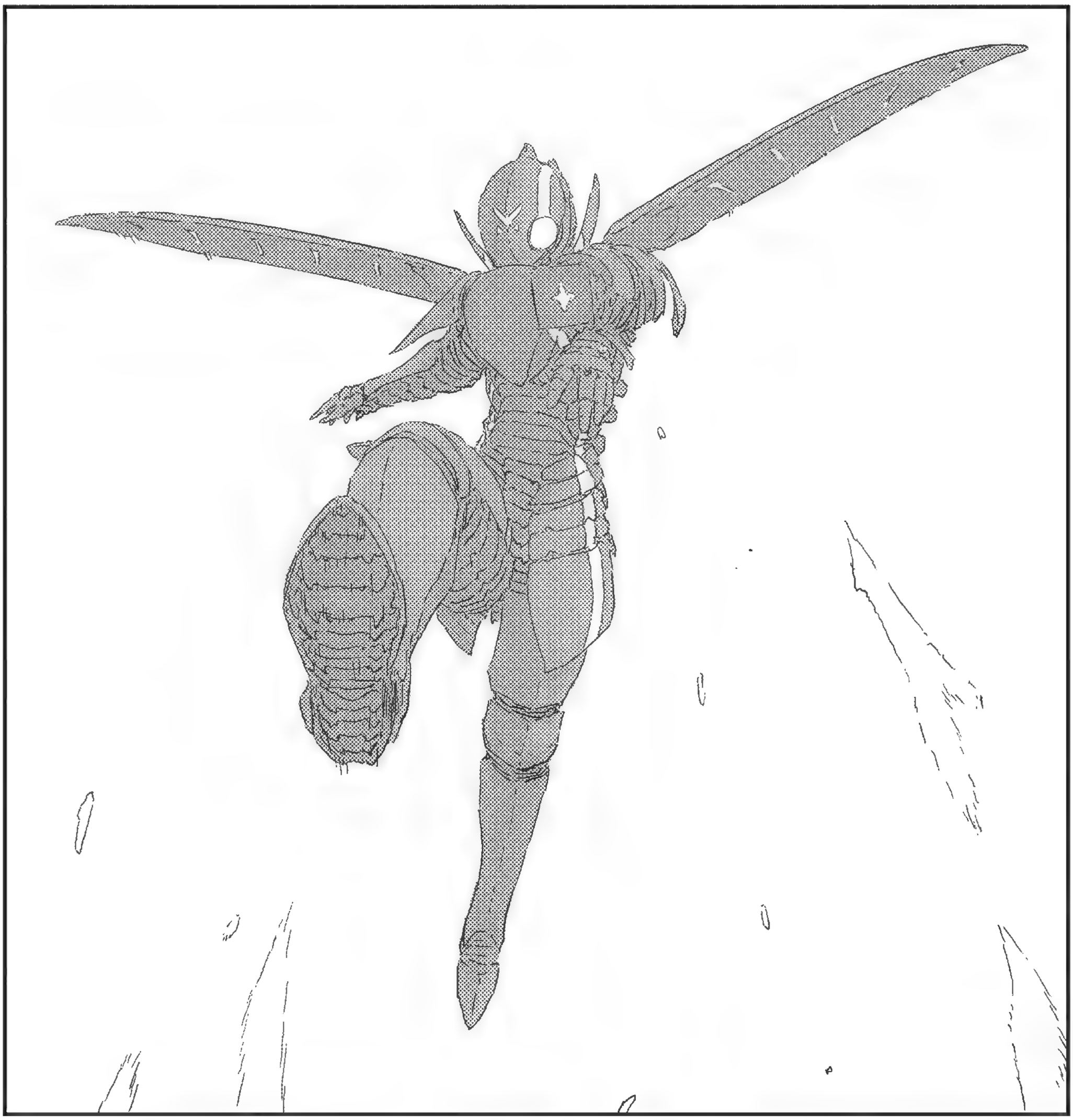


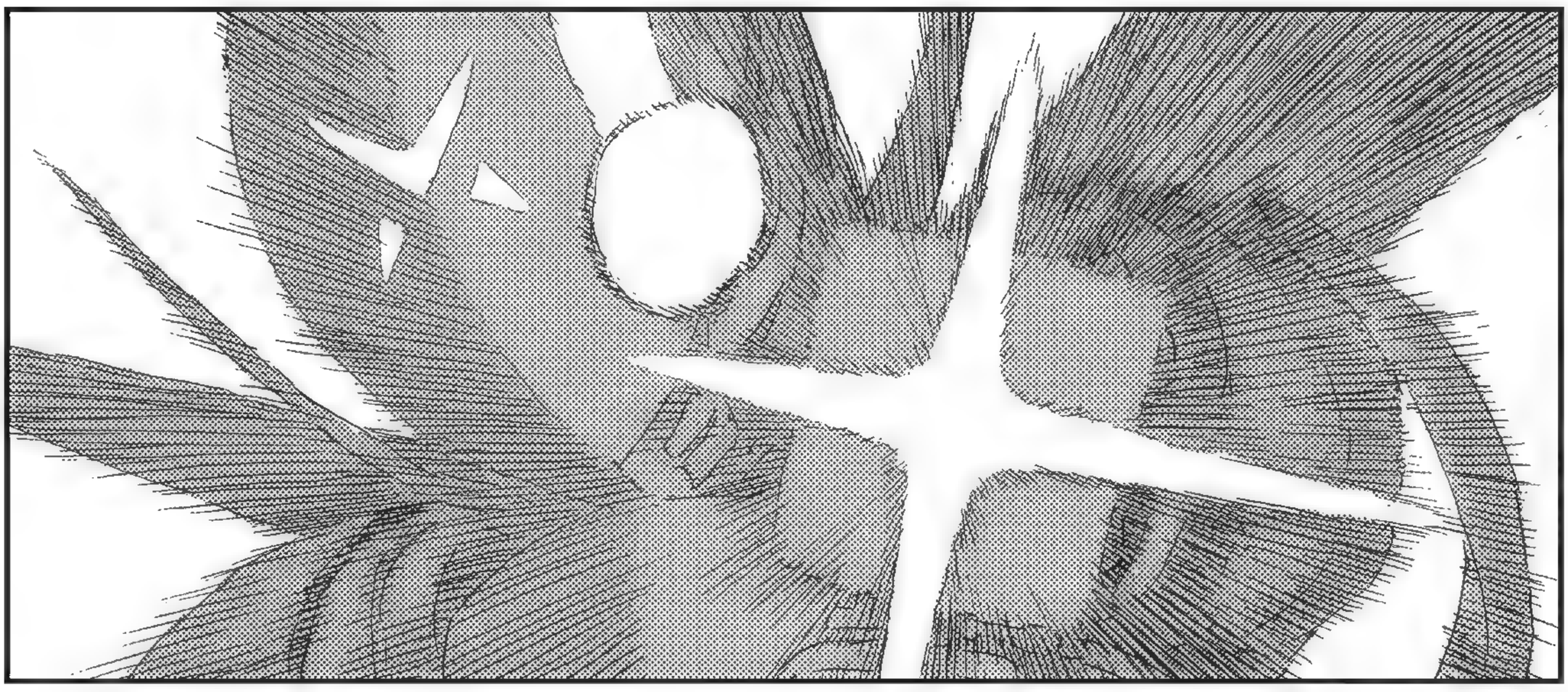

EUH

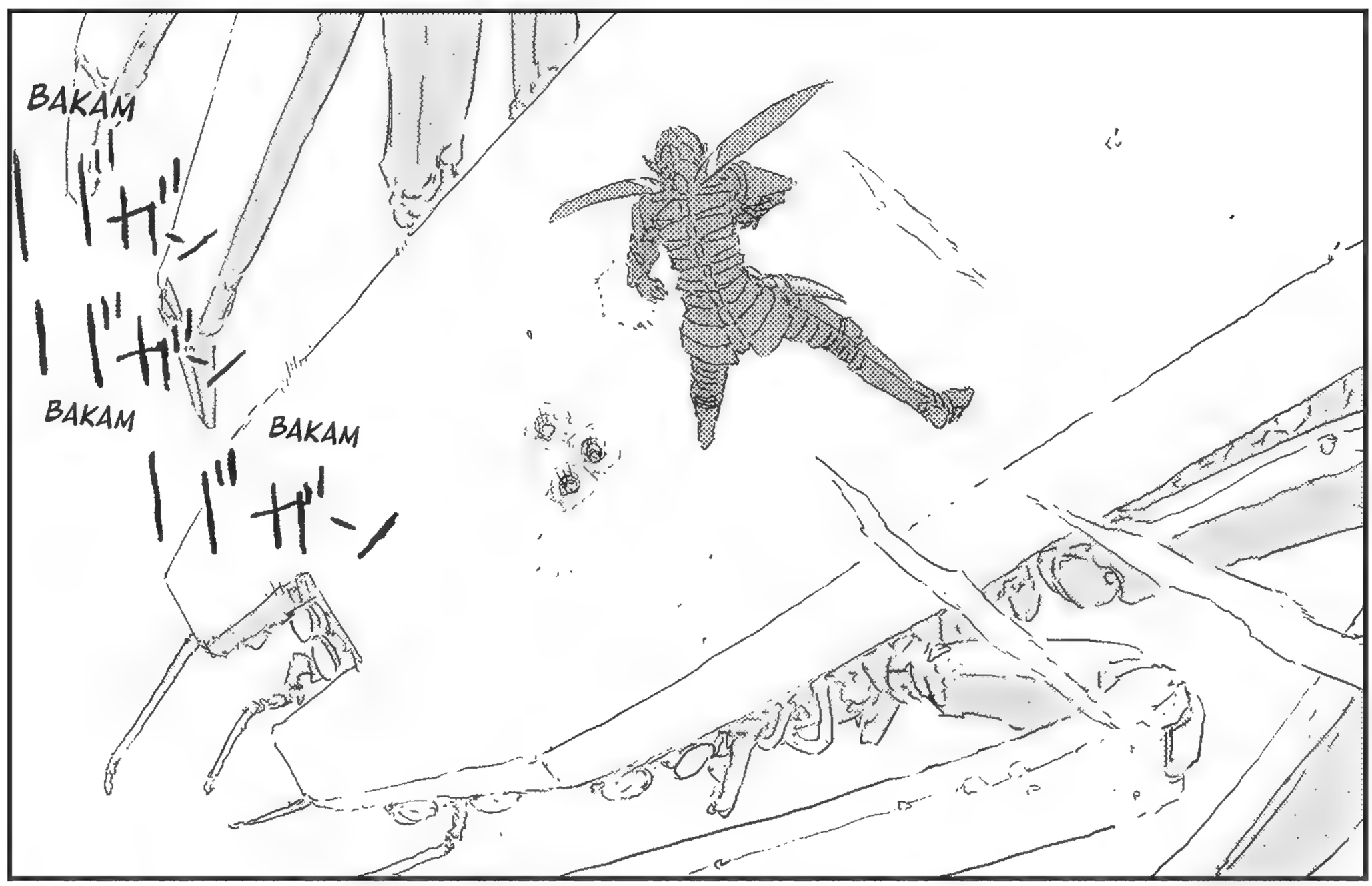

THE GROUND LEVELER IS THE HIGHEST AUTOMATON OF ALL!
DON'T!

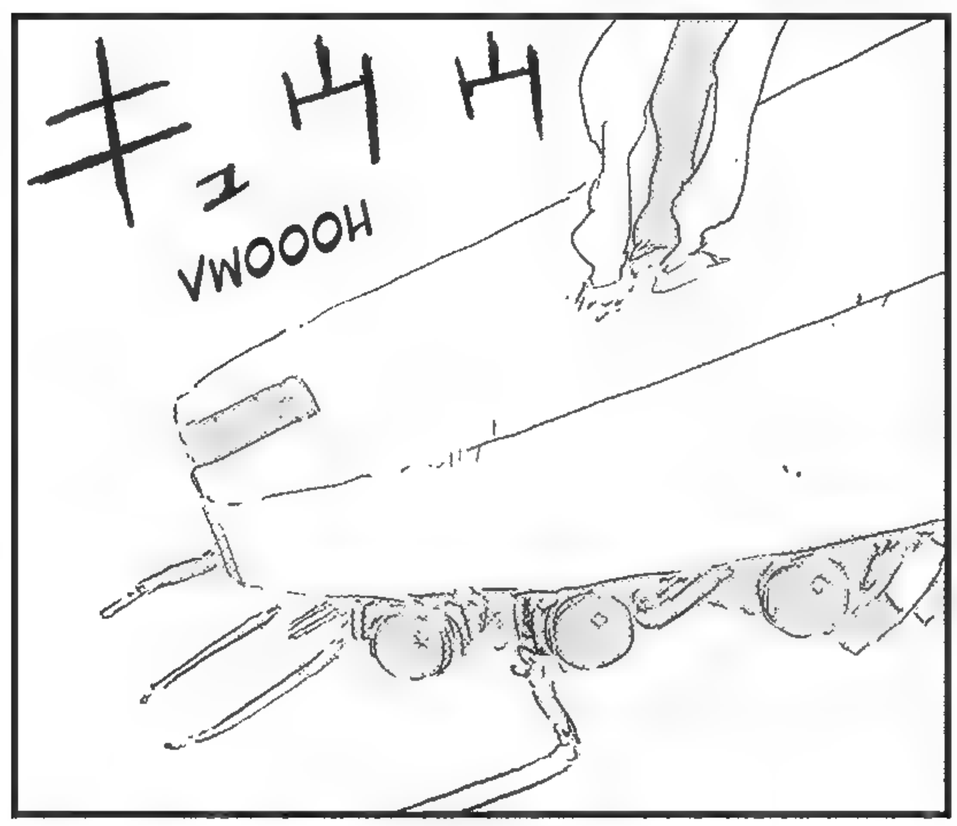
THUT
THUT
THUT

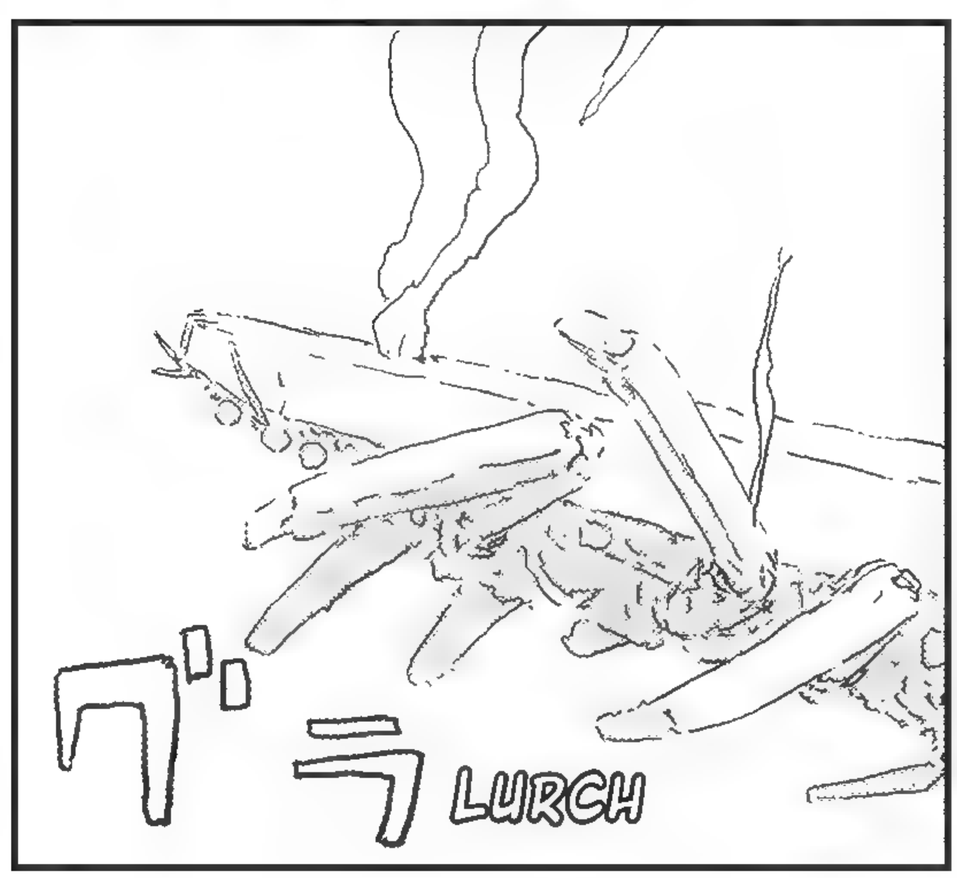
WHOMF
THUT

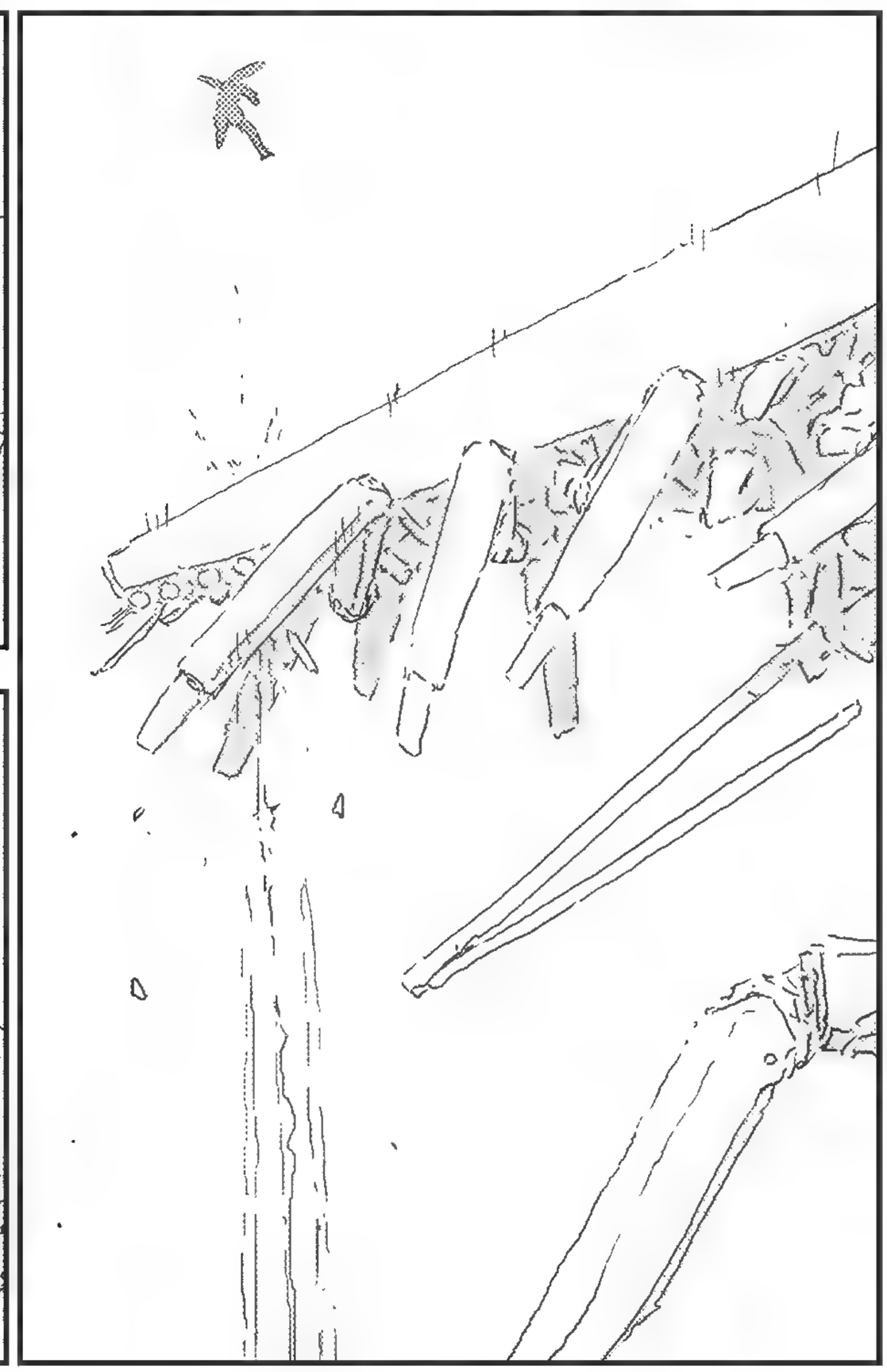


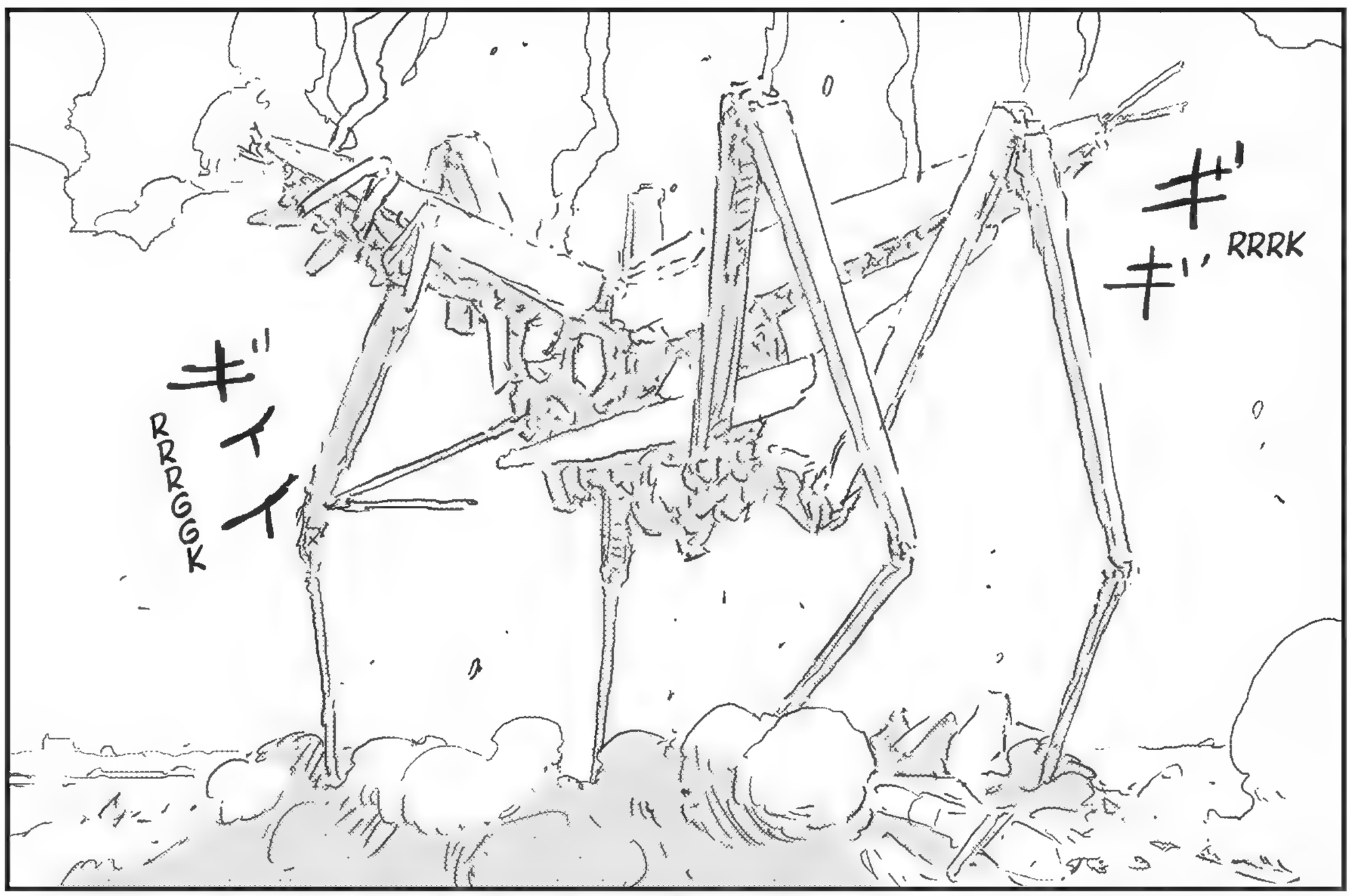



BAKAM
BAKAM
BAKAM


VWOOOH


LURCH

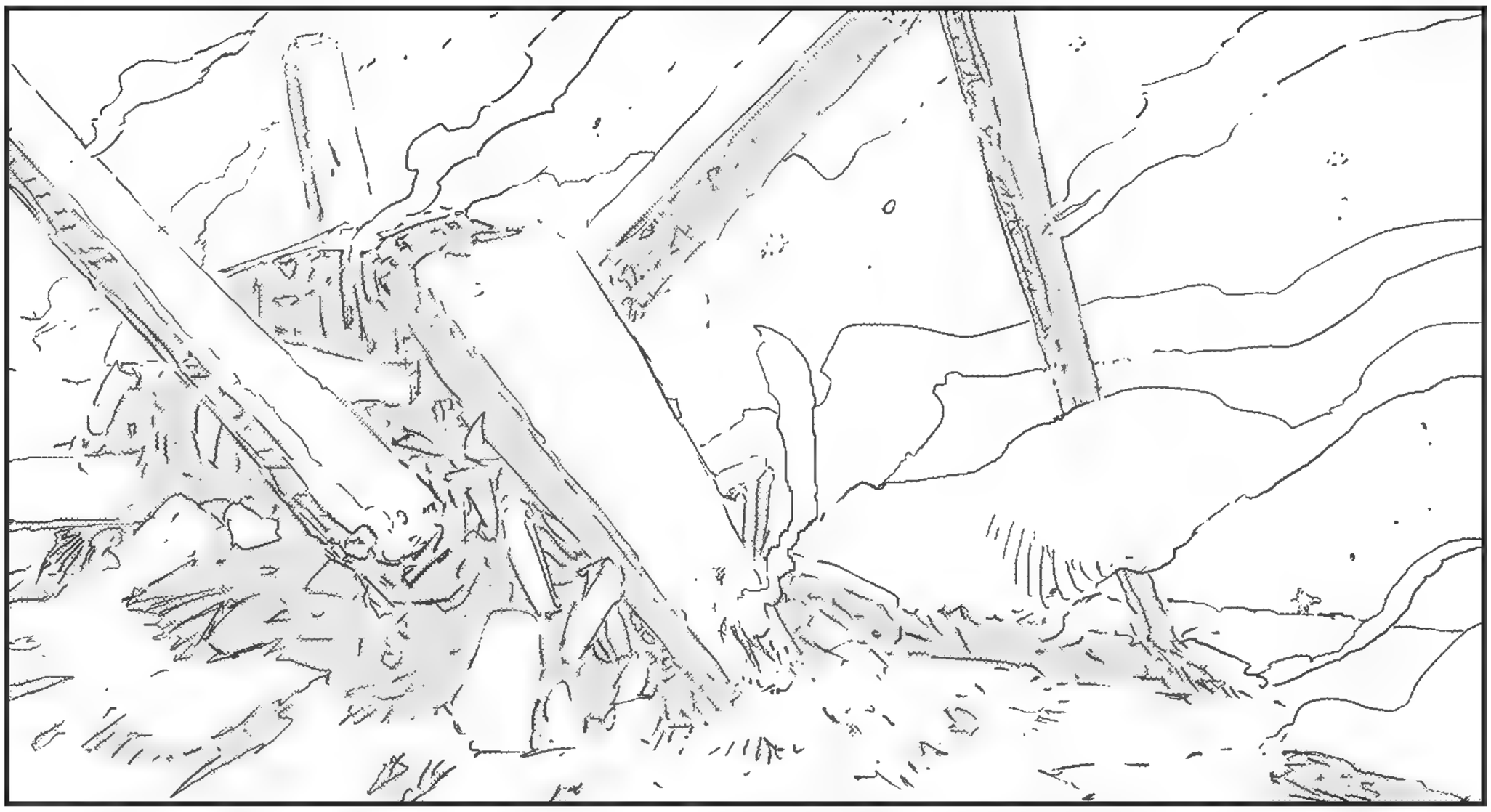


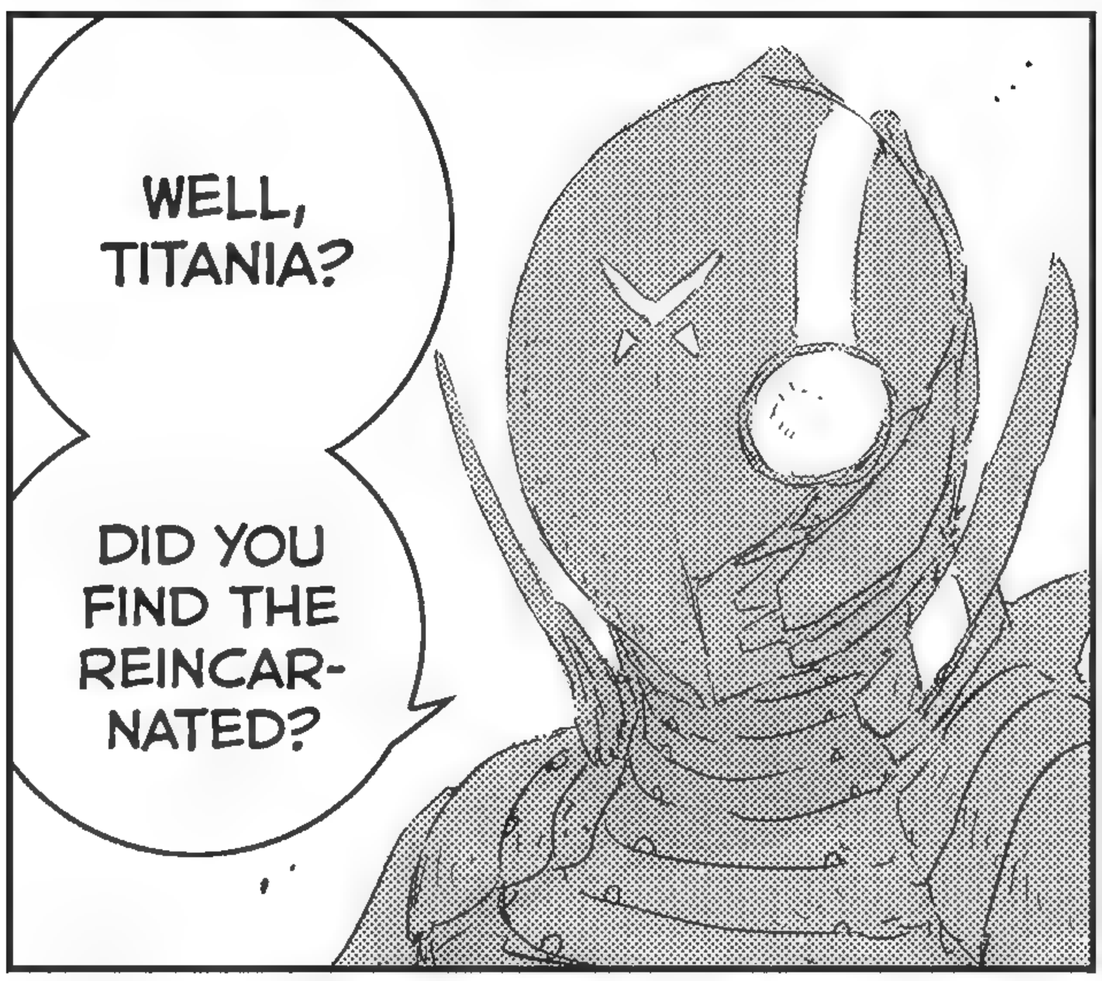

RRRGGK
RRRK

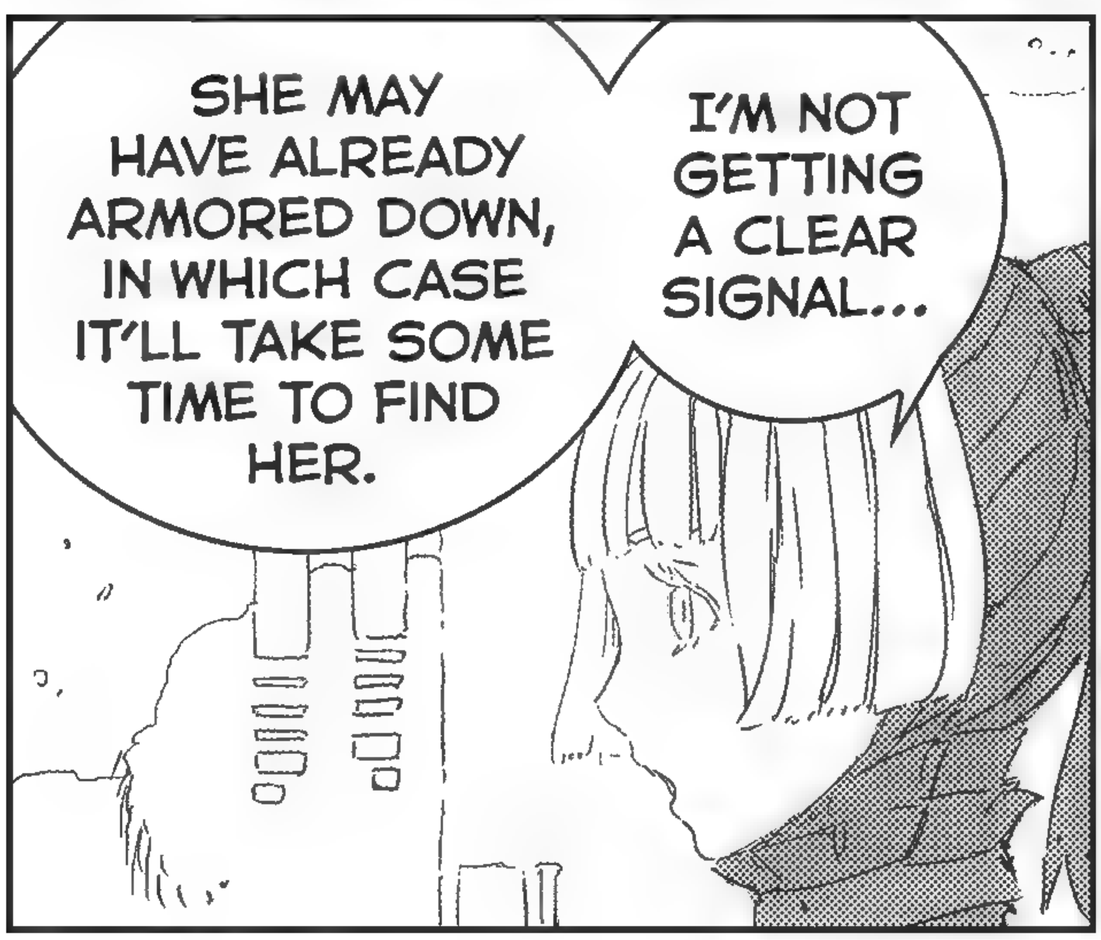
THE GROUND LEVELER!

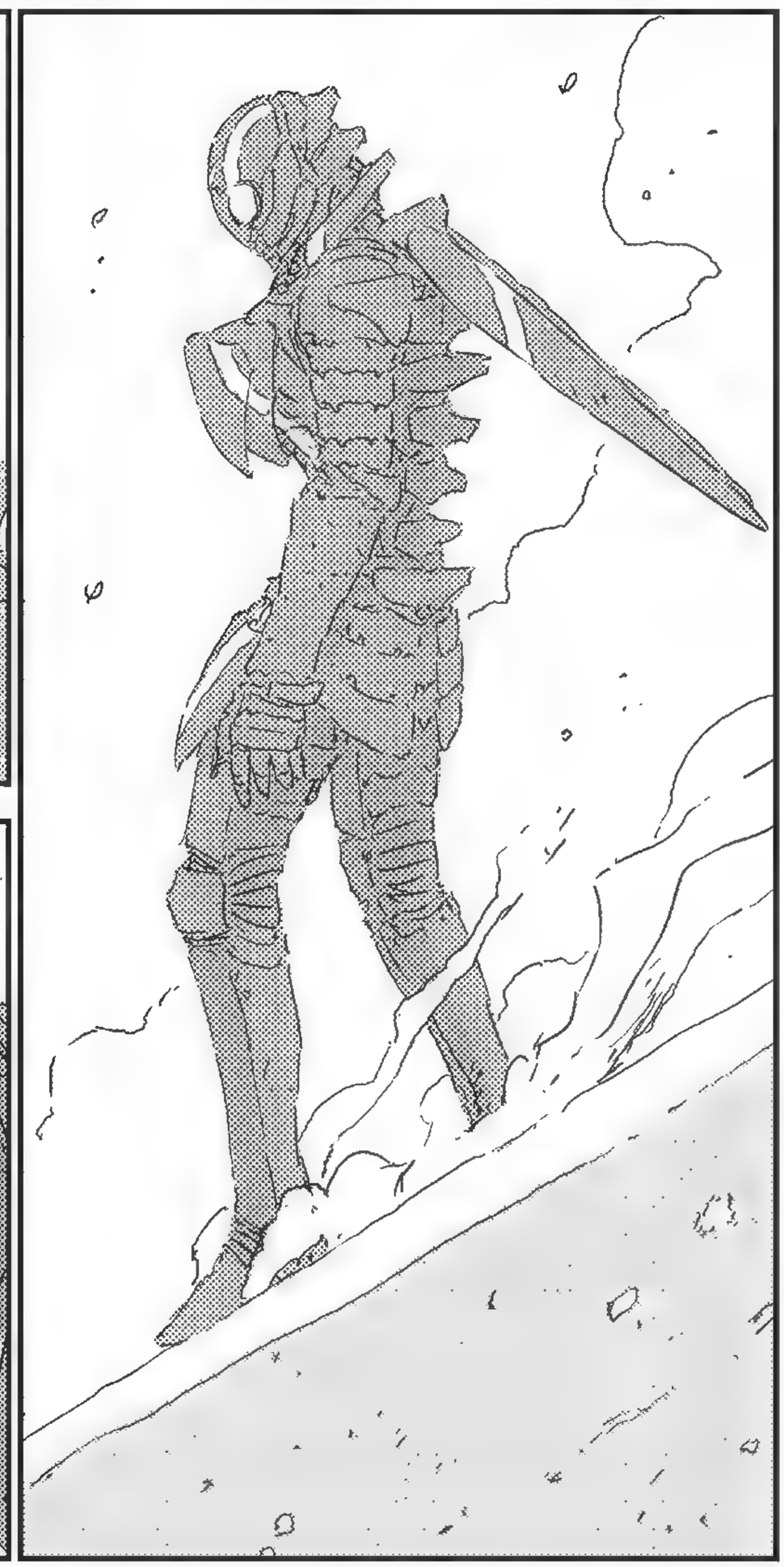
HE ALMOST ALWAYS IGNORES MY WARNINGS...
...

ZHADOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM

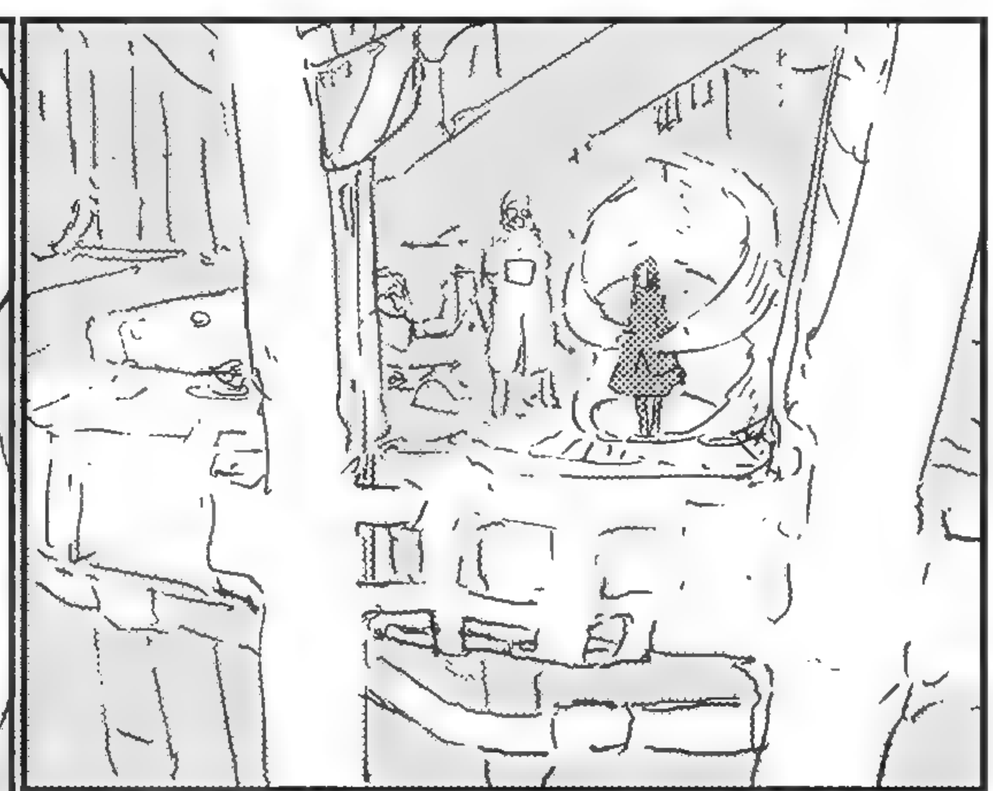


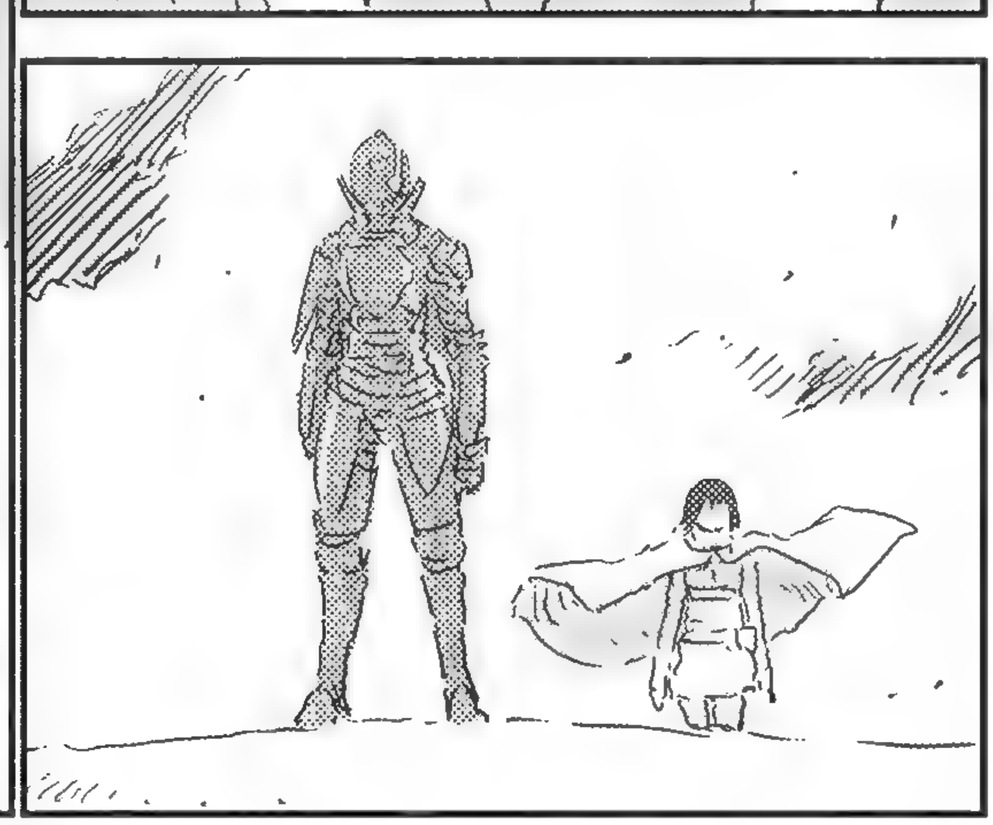

WELL, TITANIA?
DID YOU FIND THE REINCAR-NATED?

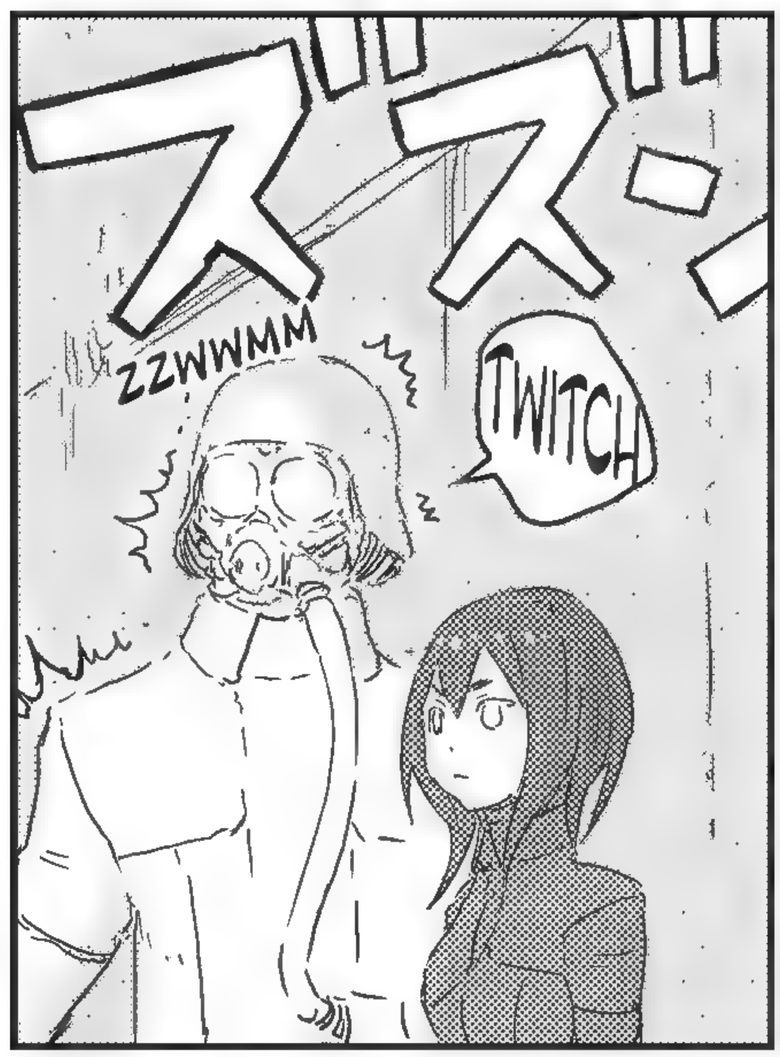

SHE MAY HAVE ALREADY ARMORED DOWN, IN WHICH CASE IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME TO FIND HER.
I'M NOT GETTING A CLEAR SIGNAL...



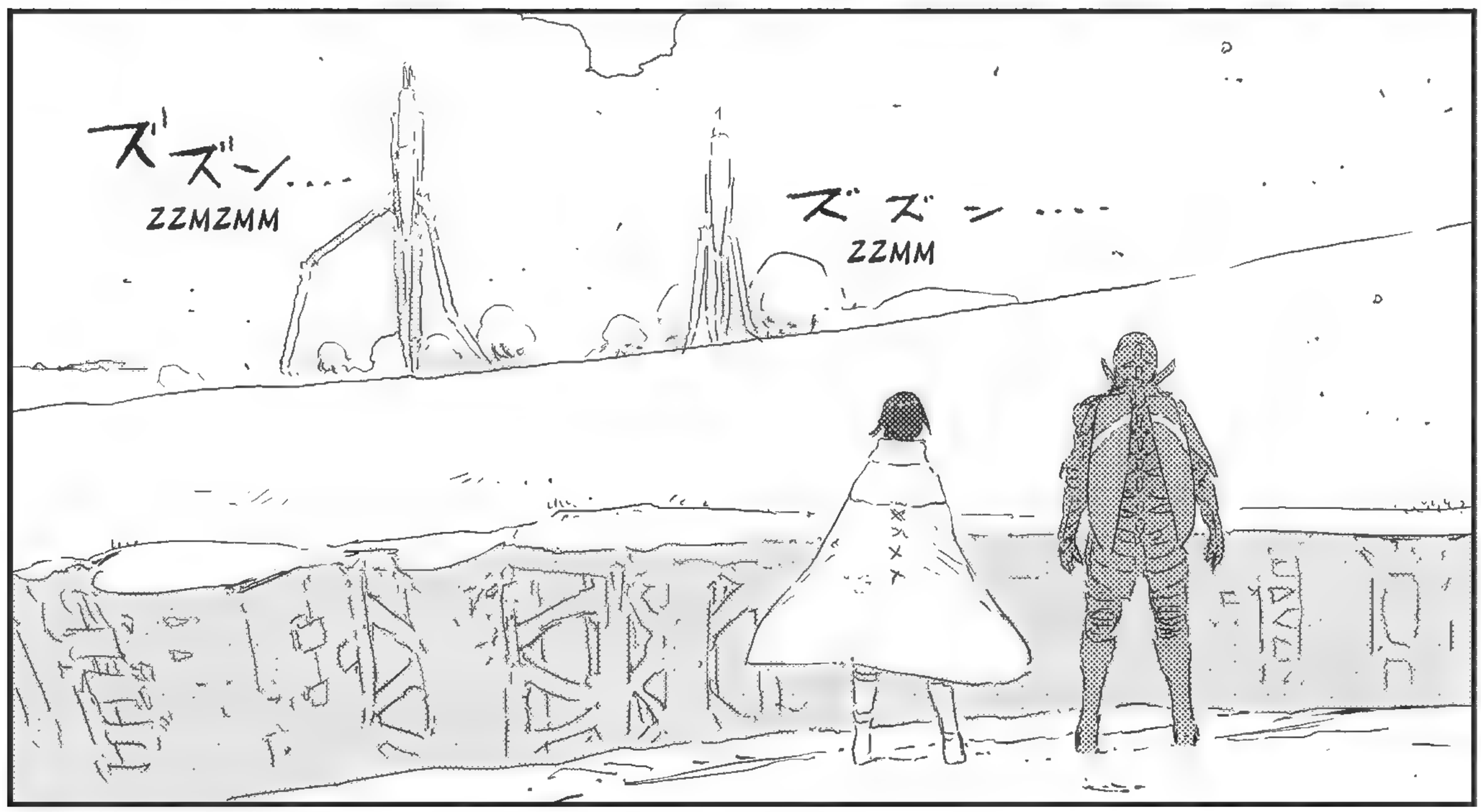
LADY JATE!
ENEMY REINCAR-NATEDS ARE AP-PROACHING!

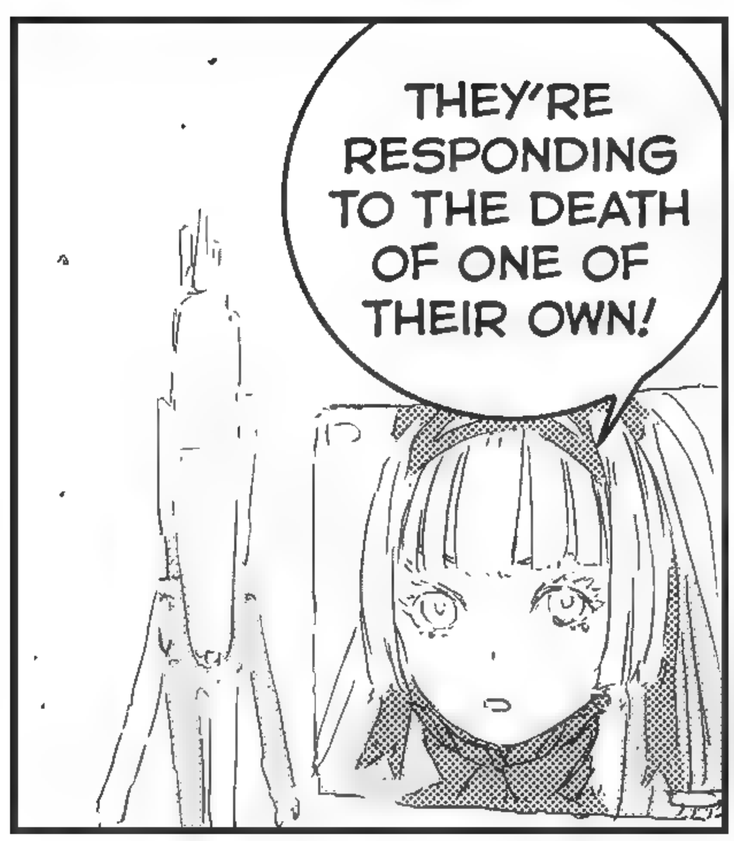


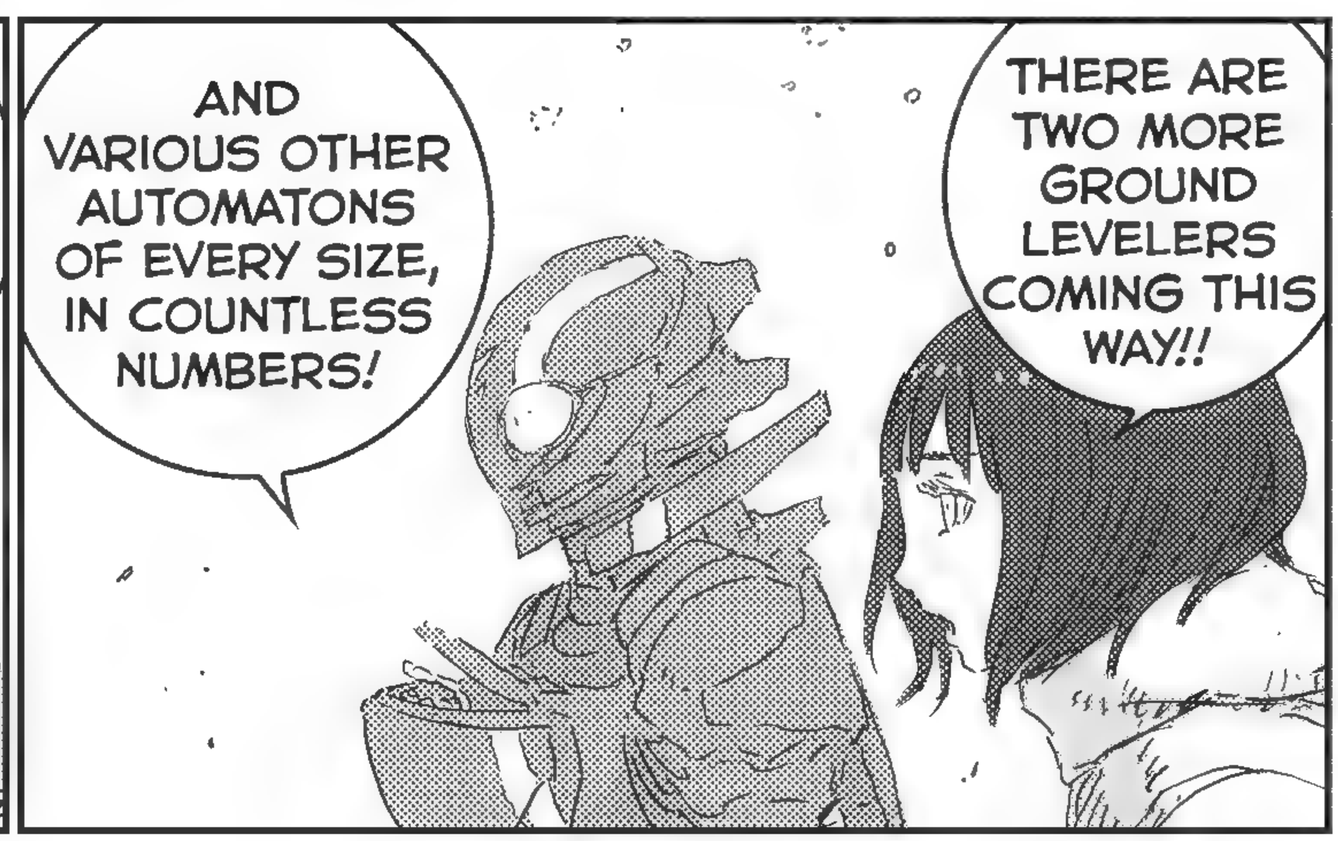


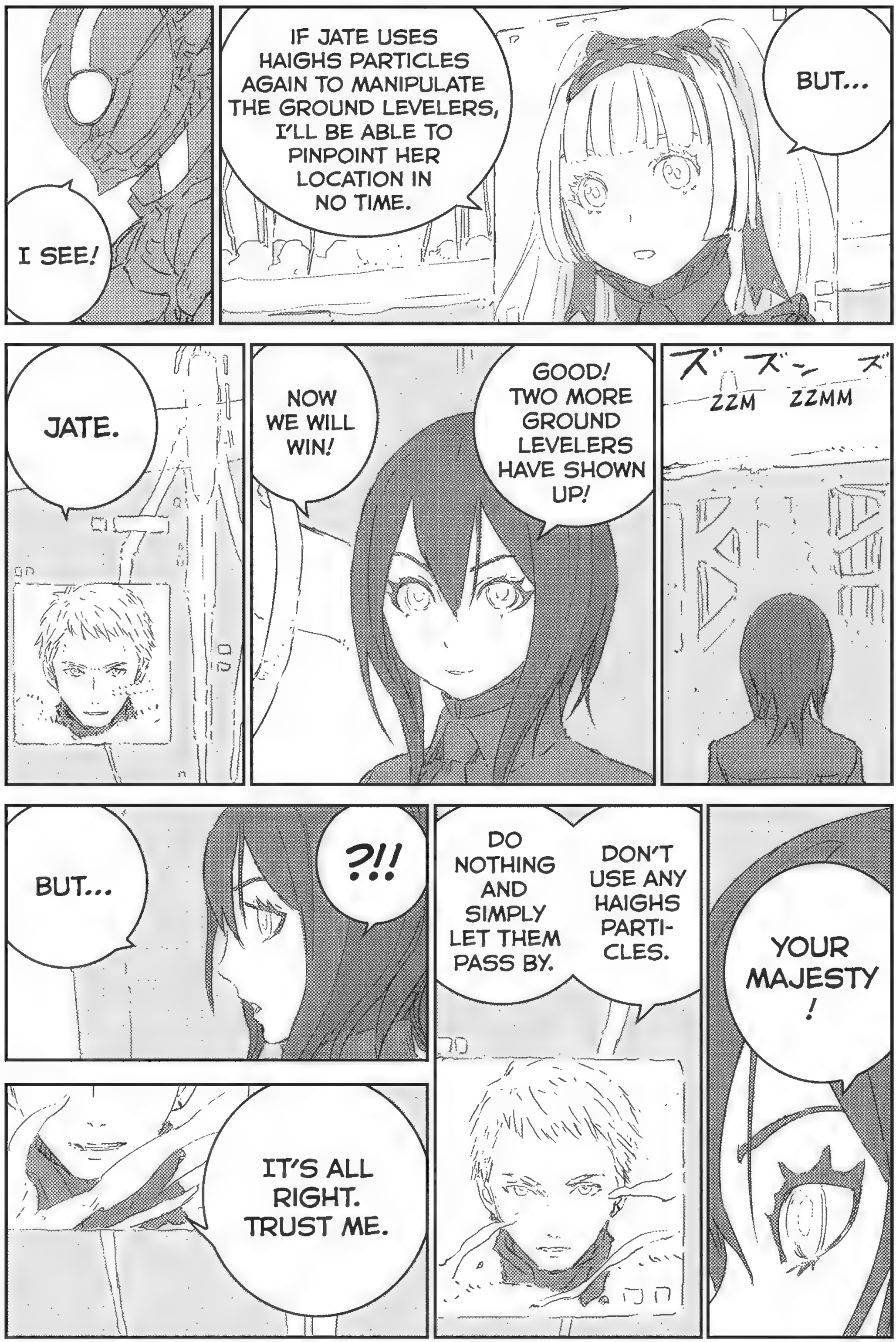

ズズ…!!
ZZWWMM
TWITCH

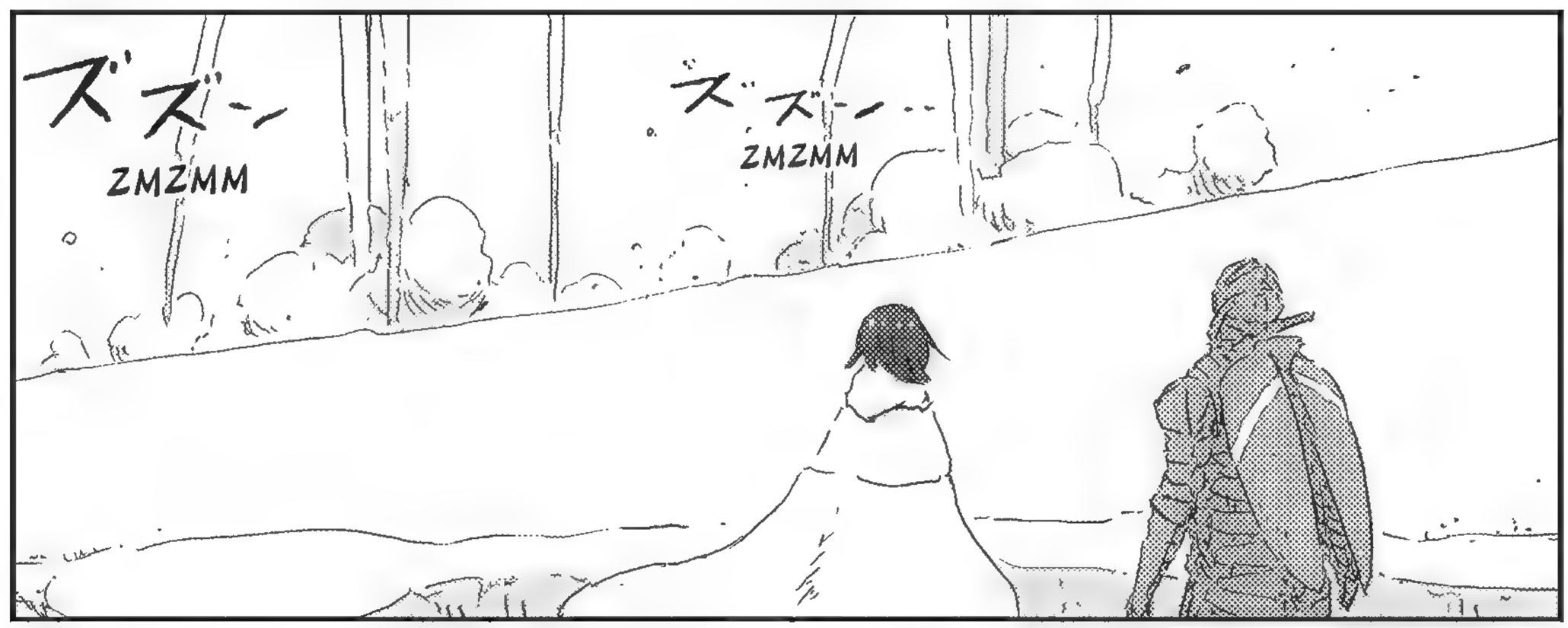
WE HAVE NO HOPE OF WINNING IF WE TAKE ON TWO OF THEM DIRECTLY.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, THEN DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE.

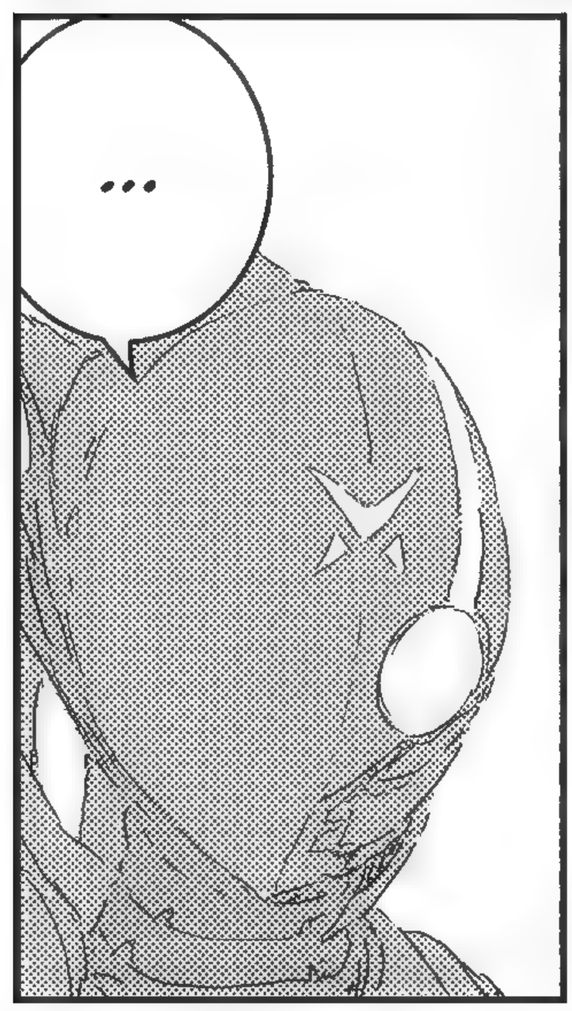

ズズン…
ZZMZMM
ズズン…
ZZMM


THEY'RE RESPONDING TO THE DEATH OF ONE OF THEIR OWN!


AND VARIOUS OTHER AUTOMATONS OF EVERY SIZE, IN COUNTLESS NUMBERS!
THERE ARE TWO MORE GROUND LEVELERS COMING THIS WAY!!

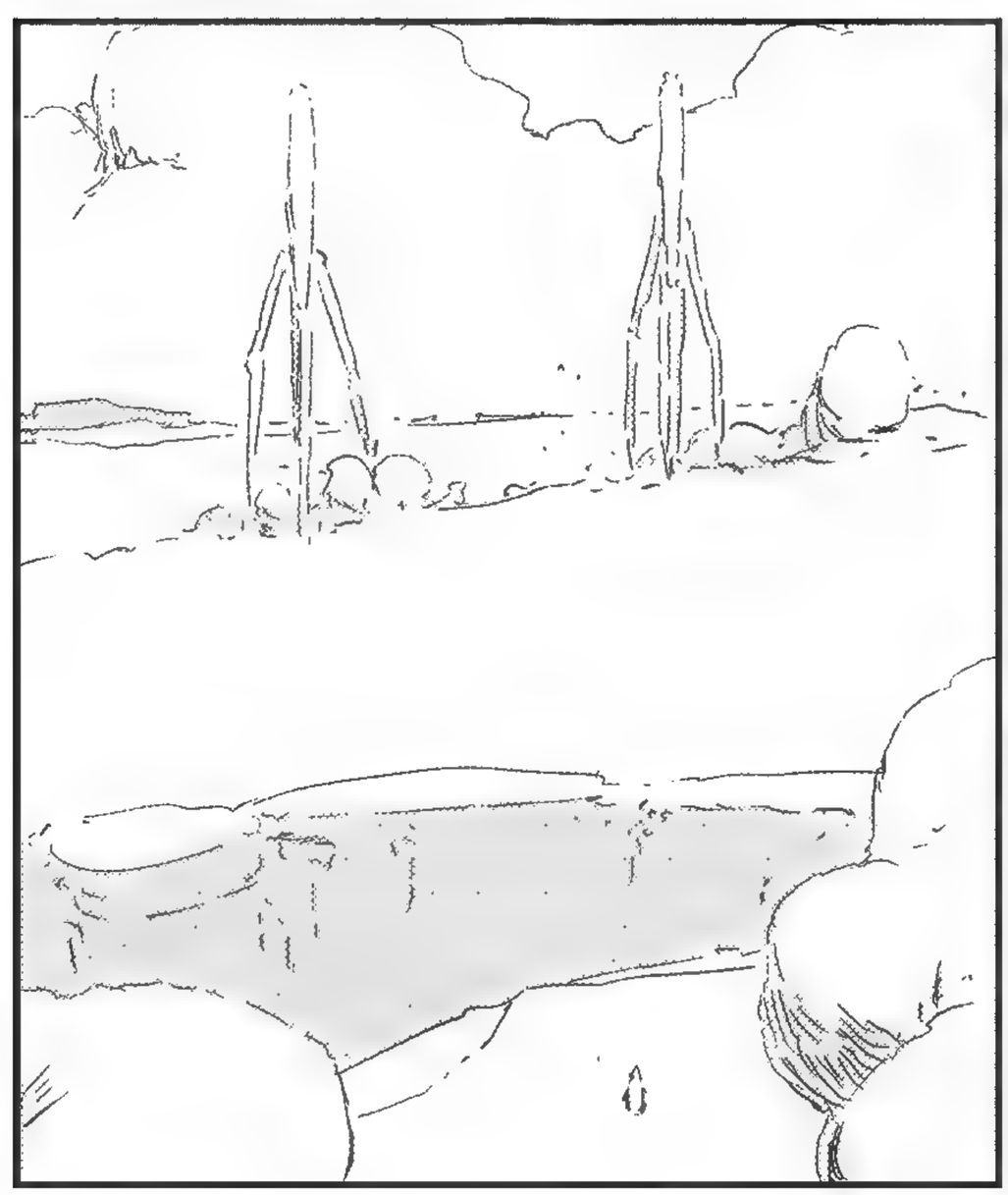

I SEE!
IF JATE USES HAIGHS PARTICLES AGAIN TO MANIPULATE THE GROUND LEVELERS, I'LL BE ABLE TO PINPOINT HER LOCATION IN NO TIME.
BUT...
JATE.
NOW WE WILL WIN!
GOOD! TWO MORE GROUND LEVELERS HAVE SHOWN UP!
ズ ズン ズ
ZZM ZZMM
BUT...
?!!
DO NOTHING AND SIMPLY LET THEM PASS BY.
DON'T USE ANY HAIGHS PARTI-CLES.
YOUR MAJESTY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. TRUST ME.


ズズーン
ZMZMM
ズズーン
ZMZMM

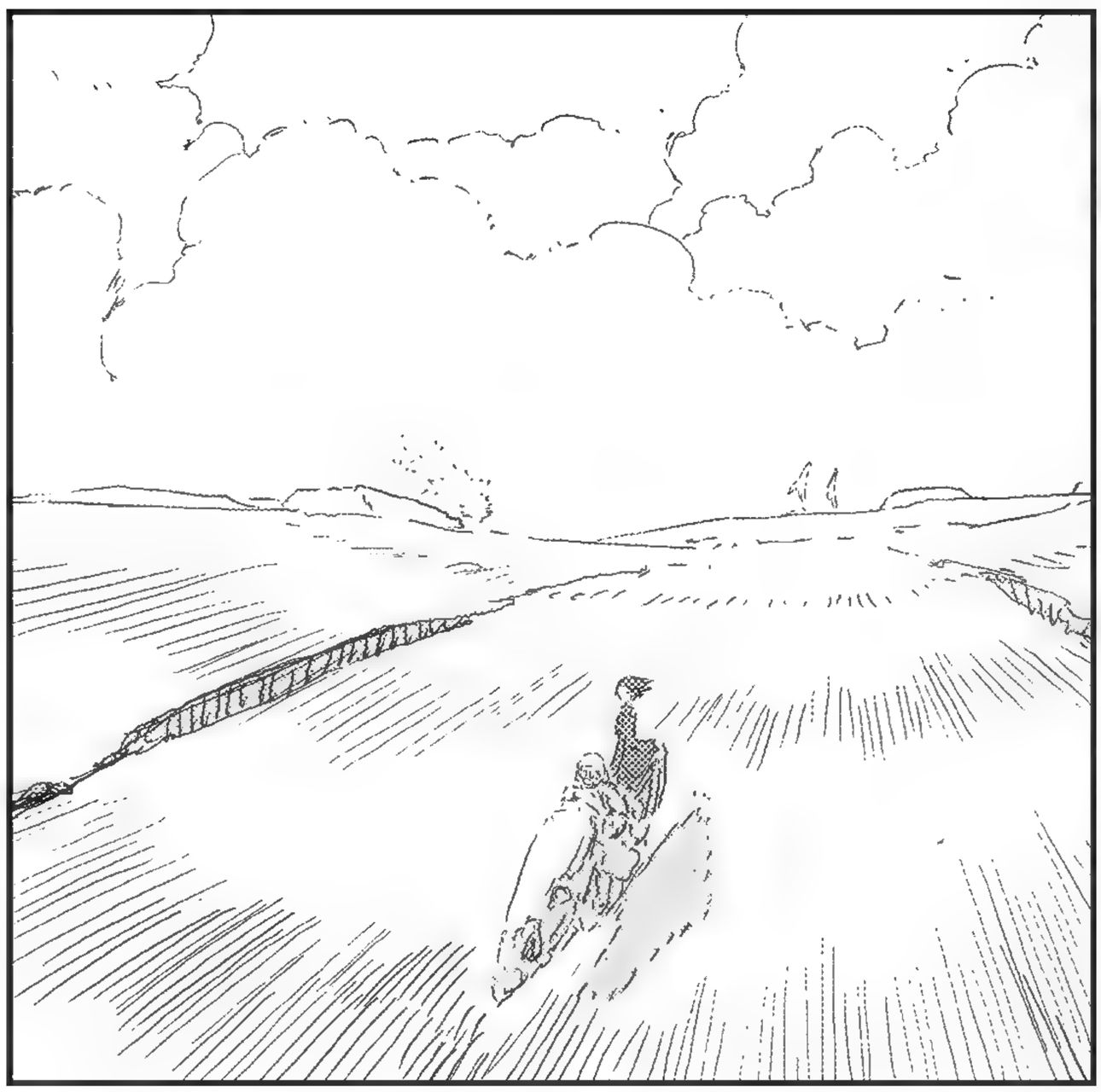

...

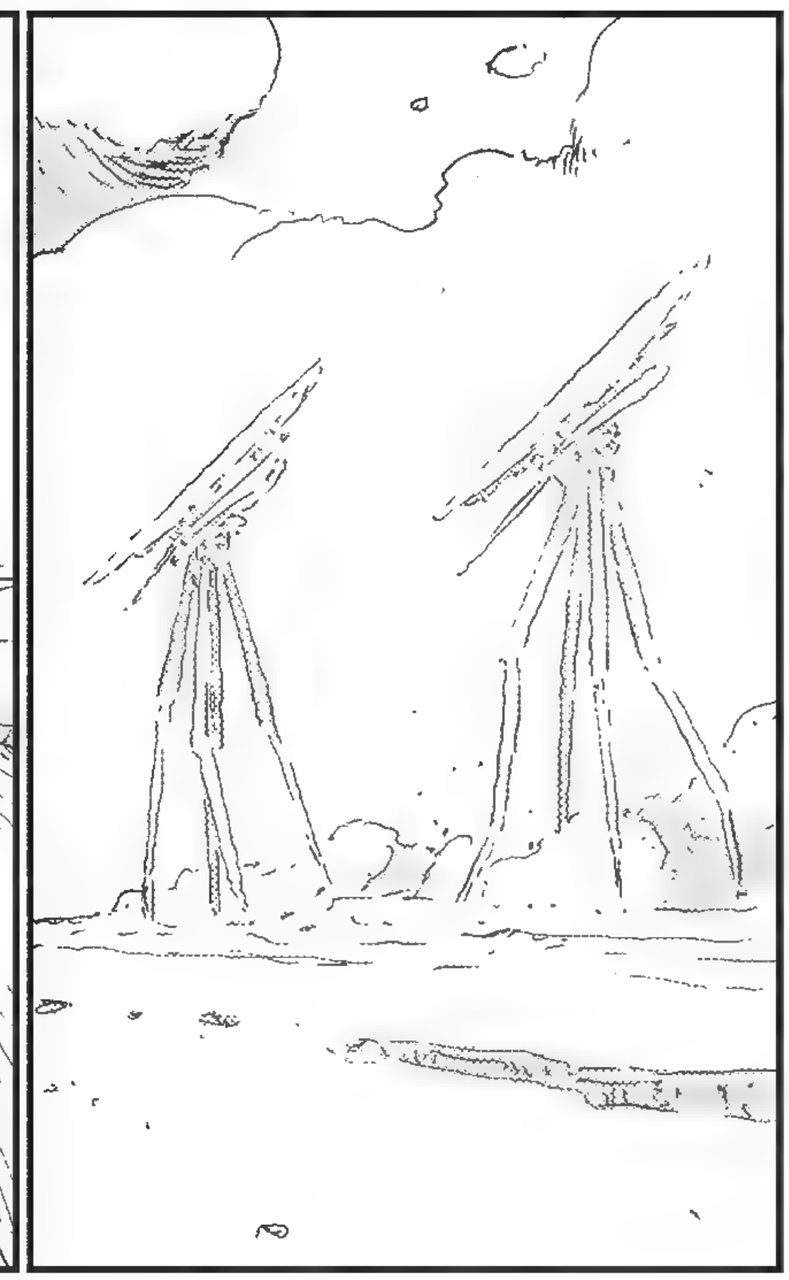
THAT'S THE LIMIT. LET'S GO.
THERE'S NO SIGN THEY'RE BEING MANIPU-LATED.

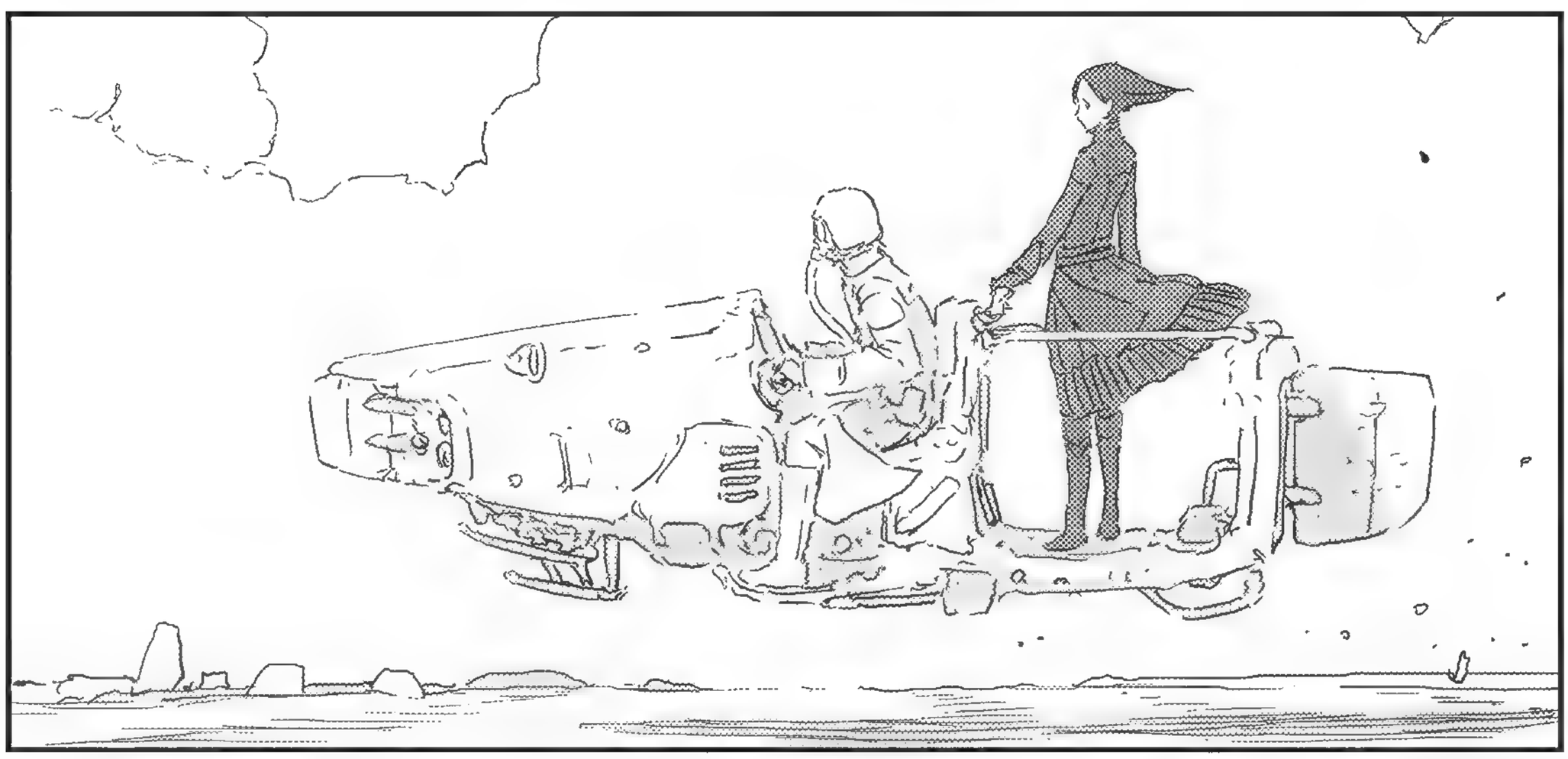
HOW LONG DO WE PLAN ON STANDING HERE?
HEY. THOSE GROUND LEVELERS ARE GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER.
ZMM

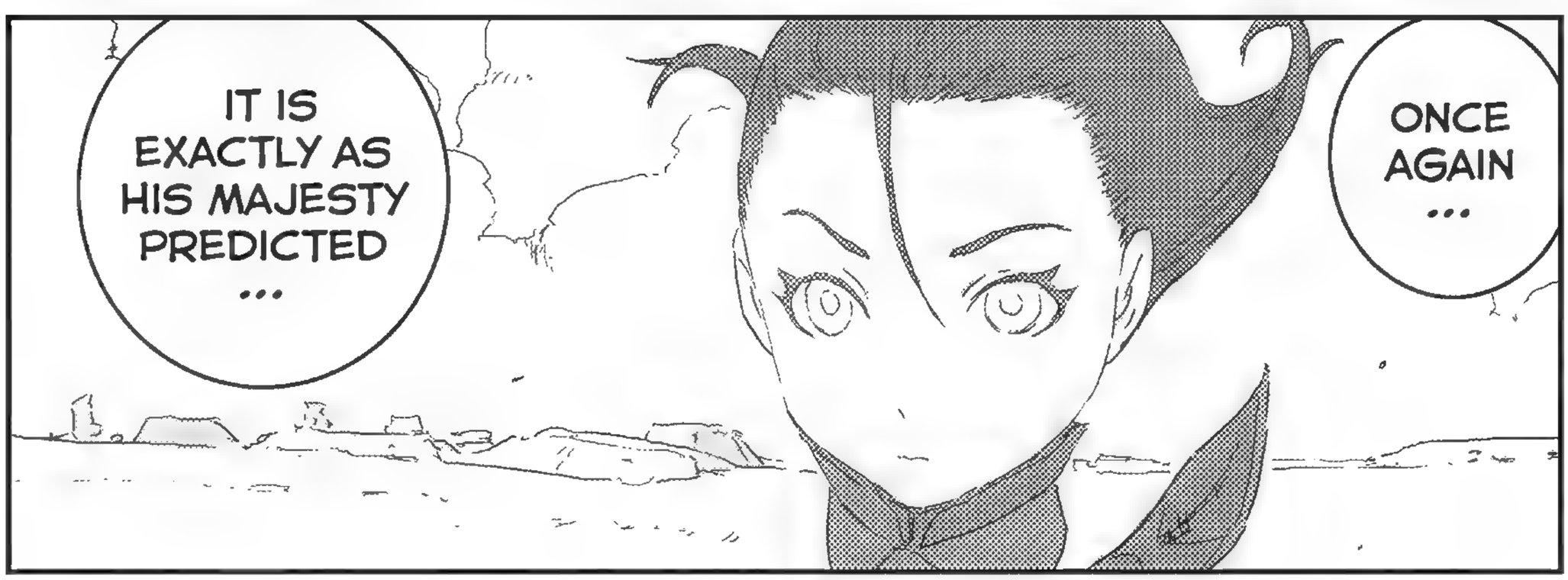


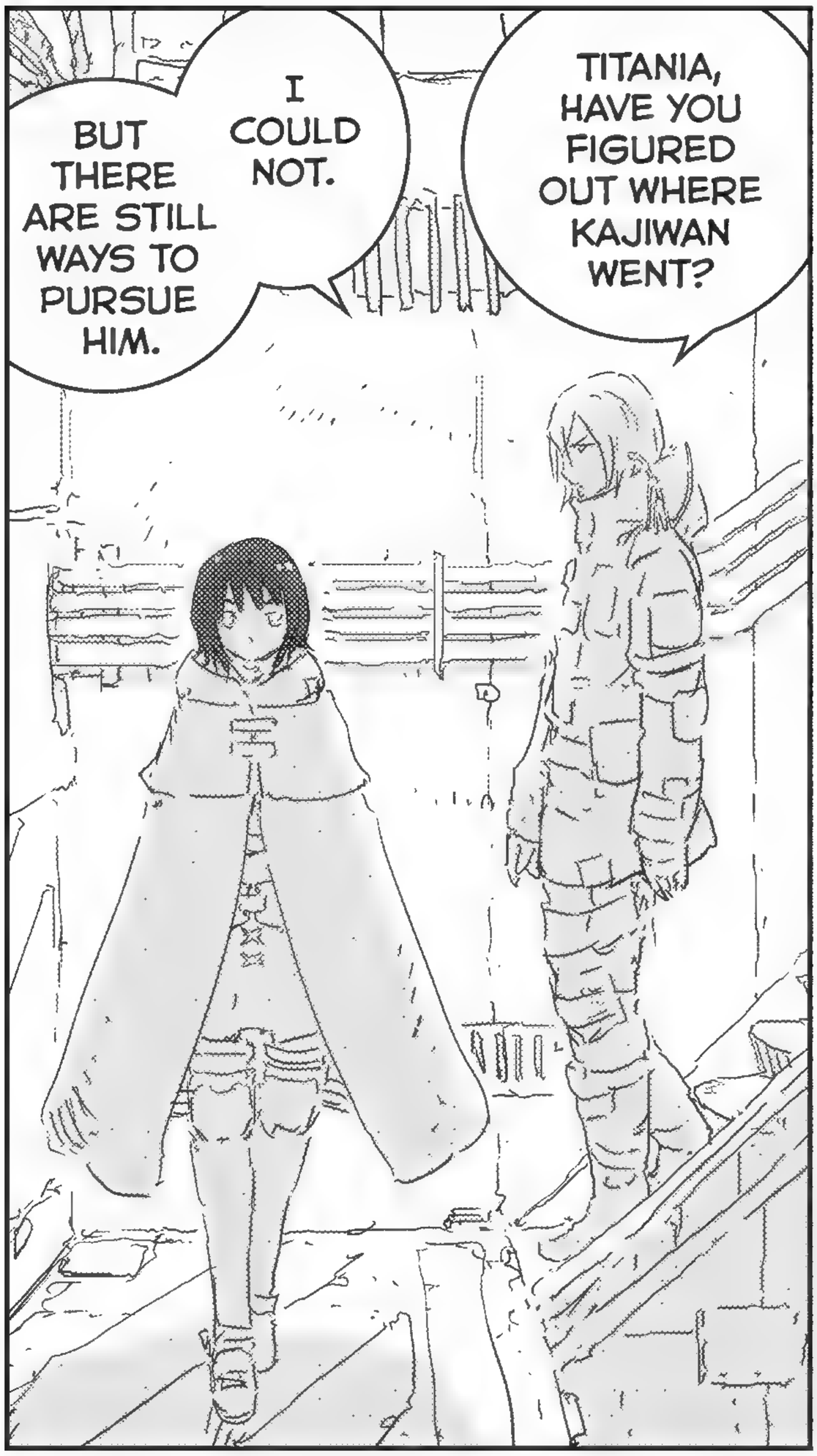
WE'RE LEAVING!
ETHEROW.
ZZMM
ZMM

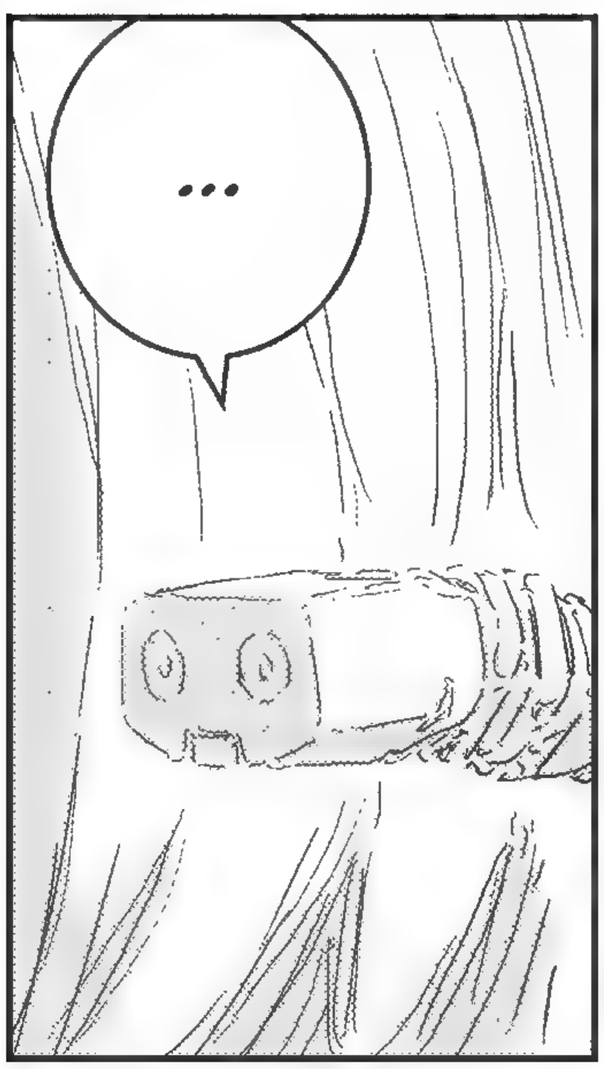


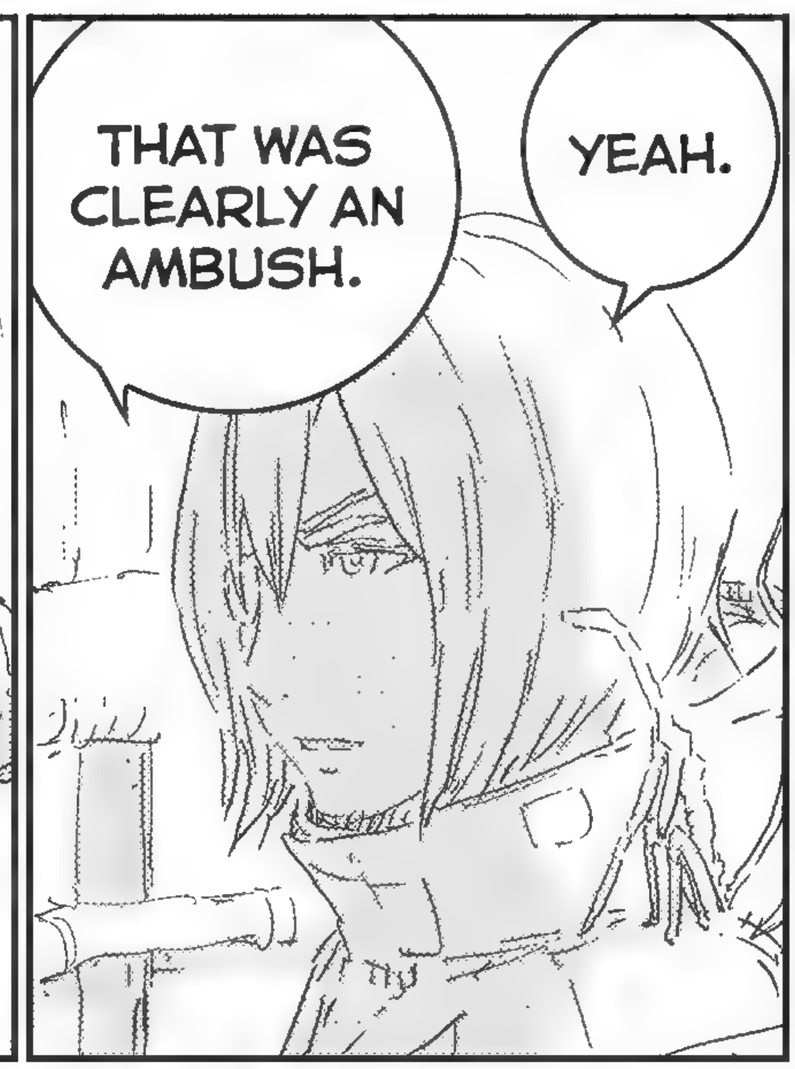




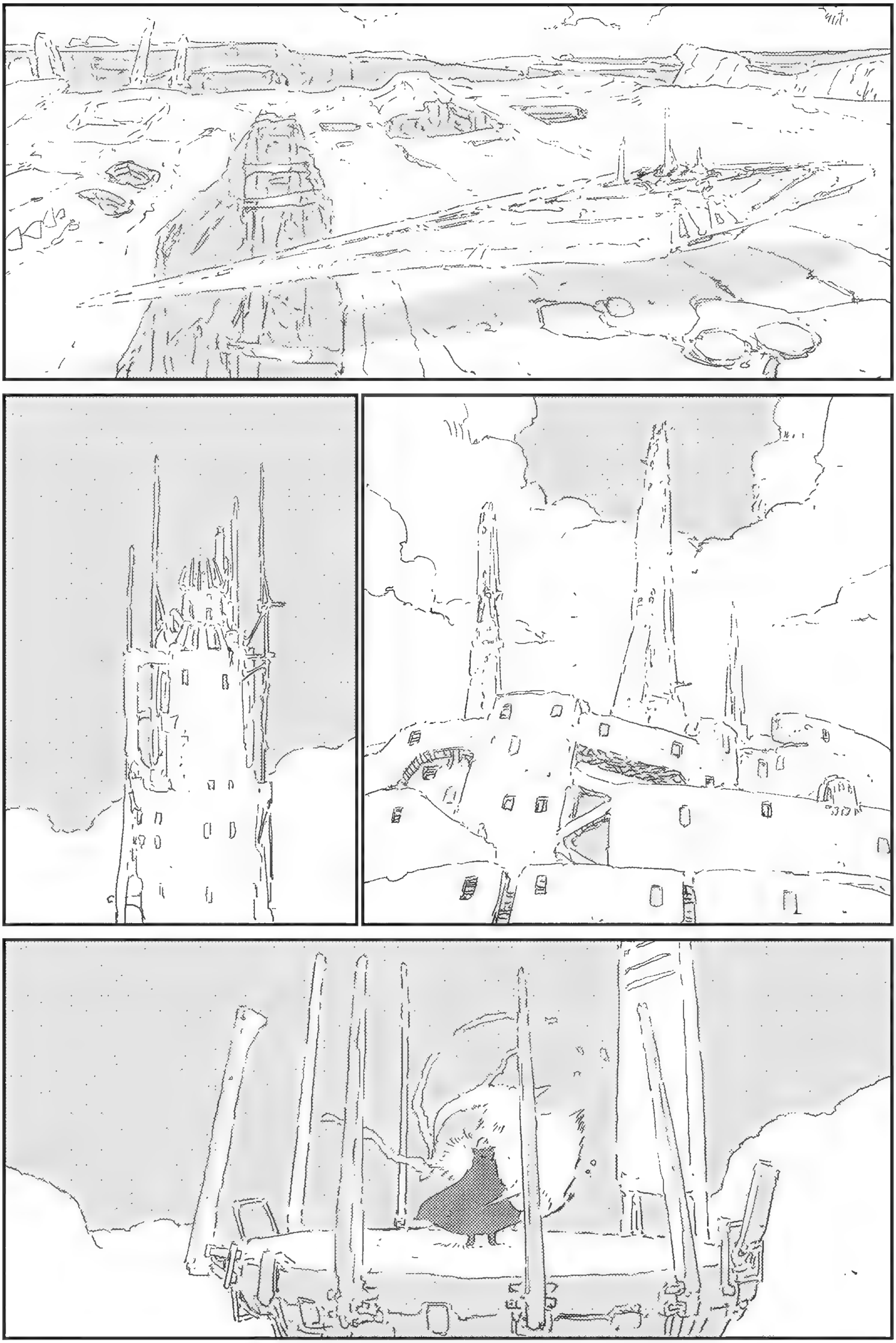

IT IS EXACTLY AS HIS MAJESTY PREDICTED ...
ONCE AGAIN ...


BUT THERE ARE STILL WAYS TO PURSUE HIM.
I COULD NOT.
TITANIA, HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHERE KAJIWAN WENT?

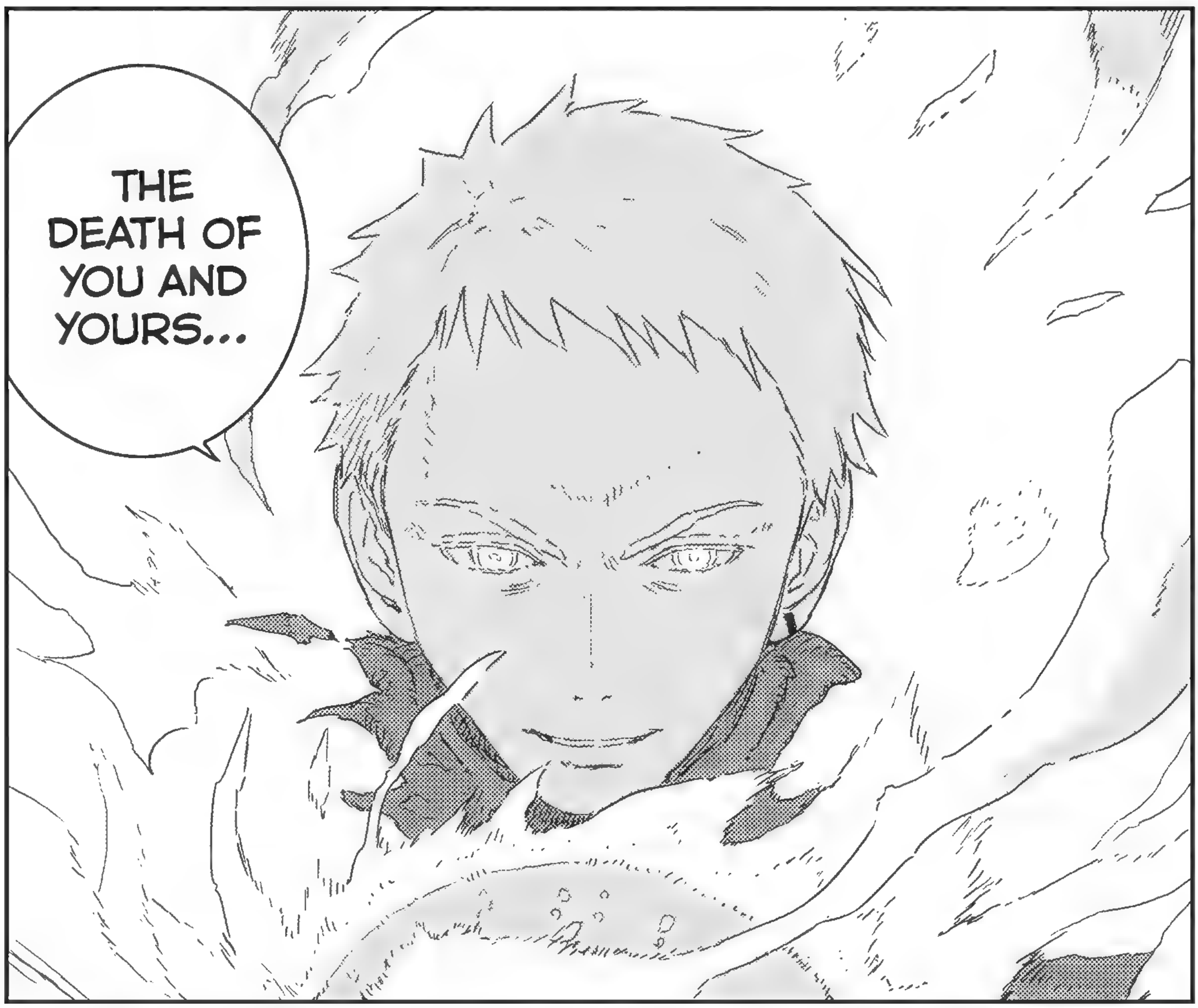

...

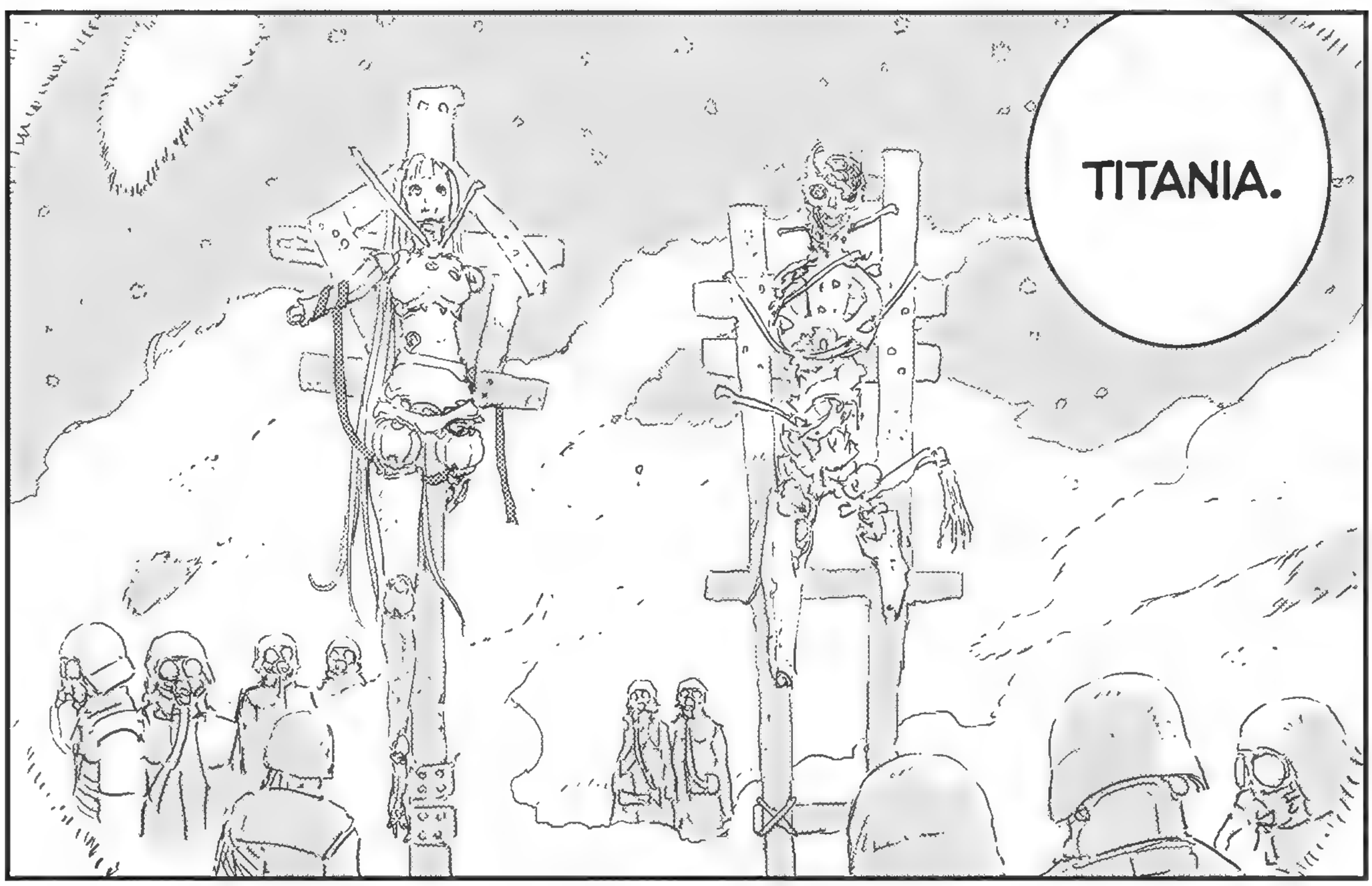

THAT WAS CLEARLY AN AMBUSH.
YEAH.

EITHER WAY, HOW DID THE EMPIRE KNOW THAT WE WERE GOING TO THAT TOWER...?



I CAN FINALLY SEE IT NOW.
WOOOOSSSHH





CHAPTER 17 END

APOSIMZ

FLOATING SUBSTANCE
A substance that reponds to something within the core, causing it to float.
FLOATING SUBSTANCE
Mainly used in military vessels
Floating substance used in the Empire's ships that Etherow and the others destroyed.
I WANT TO TAKE IT ALL WITH ME, BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME...
IT'S A PRECIOUS RELIC THAT CAN BE USED AS CURRENCY, JUST LIKE MEGA-STRUCTURE.
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 4

APOSIMZ 3

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Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Production: Grace Lu
Darren Smith